

South Harrison Community School Corporation
315 South Harrison Drive
Corydon, Indiana 47112
812-738-2168

Head Lice Guidelines

Children will be checked for lice by the school nurse or the school designee upon request by the principal or classroom teacher. Due to FERPA laws dealing with confidentiality, we do not do classroom head checks or school screenings for head lice, nor do we send “universal” letters stating that a student in your child’s class has been found to have lice.

Children found with live lice will be sent home at that time. They will **not** be allowed to ride the bus home or to school the following morning. Children with nits will be allowed to remain in school and go home at the end of the regular school day with a lice notification letter. In both instances, the child must be rechecked before returning to the classroom. Siblings of children with lice or nits in school will also be checked as soon as possible at school.

A lice instruction sheet is provided on the back of this form. Children should be treated within 2 days of notification and may return to school accompanied by a parent or guardian after treatment has been completed. If your child has not returned for a head check two days after being sent home, the principal will be notified. If evidence of head lice is present after the second evaluation, the case will be referred to the principal. Again, the child **must** be checked by the school nurse or designee prior to returning to the classroom and should not ride the bus to school that morning.

Received by: _____ Date: _____

Revised 5/19/16

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING YOUR CHILD

Dear Parents: Date _____

Head lice has been discovered on your child, _____

Don't panic. Anyone can get head lice. It has nothing to do with cleanliness, nor does it reflect you as a parent. Head lice, also called pediculosis, are crawling insects. They cannot hop, jump, or fly. Therefore, children cannot get head lice by simply sitting next to each other in class. There must be close contact such as rubbing heads together or sharing hats, clothing, brushes, and/or pillows. Children are more likely to get lice from sleepovers, the movie theater, or transportation vehicles than they are from the classroom. The National Pediculosis Association suggests, head lice will not survive off of their human hosts (human blood) for more than 24 hours. They do not thrive on pets.

Head lice are small, only about 1/16 of an inch, about the size of a sesame seed. They are clear in color when hatched, and then quickly turn to a reddish-brown color after feeding. Nits (eggs of the head louse) are small, yellowish-white, oval-shaped eggs that are glued to the hair shaft. They cannot be washed or brushed out. You cannot catch nits from another person. Nits must be laid by live lice.

Clusters of nits may be found in any section of the hair, but you are more likely to find them in the hair behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.

Getting rid of head lice need not be difficult. It is a matter of washing the hair with a lice killing shampoo, and then carefully removing all of the nits. Lice-killing products are pesticides, so you want to use caution and be sure it is lice you are dealing with. The lice-killing product will not get rid of the nits. This must be done manually.

If you have any questions at all, please call your school nurse at _____.

Our school nurses recommend www.headlice.org for more info on head lice

GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH LICE AND NITS (LICE EGGS)

1. **EXAMINE YOUR CHILD'S HEAD** to be sure you know what the nits look like. They are tiny grayish-white eggs attached to the hair, near the scalp, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.
 2. **CHECK ALL OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS** to see if they are infested. Any family member with evidence of head lice must also be treated.
 3. **USE A HEAD LICE TREATMENT PRODUCT.** Your pharmacist can recommend a lice-killing product. **Use caution when using the product**, because lice-killing products are pesticides. Some parents choose to use other home remedies such as vegetable oil to smother the lice. You can talk to your school nurse about these options.
 4. **REMOVE THE NITS (LICE EGGS).** Because no lice-killing product will kill all of the nits. It is very important to remove the nits manually. They must all be removed from the hair in order to ensure they will not hatch. Special combs are provided with lice treatment products. Work under a good light, such as a lamp.
 5. **WASH ALL CLOTHES, bed linens, towels, hats, and coats** in hot water and dry on hot cycle for at least 20 minutes. Items that cannot be safely washed, such as stuffed animals should be stored outside of the home for a minimum of 2 weeks. Pillows should be placed in the dryer on hot cycle for at least 20 minutes.
 6. **CLEAN COMBS, BRUSHES, AND HEADBANDS IN HOT, SOAPY WATER.** Water should be at least 130 degrees. Soak these items for at least 10 minutes.
 7. **VACUUM EVERYWHERE** to make sure your home is free of lice. Vacuum carpets, mattresses, upholstered furniture; anything that might hold lice. Do a thorough job and discard the vacuum bag promptly.
- HEAD LICE SURVIVE ONLY ON HUMANS, and do not affect family pets.