

WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED****NOTICE TO PARENTS REGARDING
HEAD LICE IN YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This is to inform you that head lice have been found on a student in your child's classroom. Since head lice spreads easily, it is recommended that you check your child's hair immediately, and every day for the next fourteen days. Also, it is recommended that you check your child's hair once a week on a regular basis. It is also advisable to check other members of the household for head lice, eggs, nits. Please inform other parents of students that your child may be in close contact with if head lice, eggs, nits are found. This may also include child care provider and relatives.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Head lice are tiny, wingless, flat insects that live on the scalp. These 1 to 4 mm insects are grey-brown in colour, move very quickly and are hard to see. Using a bright light and a magnifying glass may help. Head lice lay eggs that are commonly found behind the ears or at the back of the neck close to the scalp.
- Eggs are clear to white, grey, or even brown in colour and the size ranges from that of a pinhead to a grain of sand. The eggs are different from dandruff because they cannot be flicked off or removed easily from the hair shaft. They are firmly attached to the hair close to the scalp.
- Head lice are hard to find as they move quickly. It is easier to find the eggs than the adult lice. A person's scalp (head) may or may not itch if they have head lice.

HOW HEAD LICE ARE SPREAD

- Head lice spread easily from person to person, through head-to-head contact. Sharing items such as hats, brushes, combs, clothing and headphones can spread lice between children. Lice rarely survive off of a human head for longer than 36 hours. Head lice cannot jump or fly.

HEAD LICE CONTROL

- Special medicated shampoos/rinses are generally effective at killing head lice and eggs. More information is available from your pharmacist or physician.
- It is essential to remove all the head lice, eggs, nits since the products may not kill all of them.
- Children can return to school after all head lice, eggs, nits have been removed.

IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR CHILD MAY HAVE HEAD LICE

- If you find head lice on your child, please inform the school immediately, so that action may be taken to minimize the spread. Parents are asked to come to the school to pick up the *Head Lice Information Package*.
- Forms in the *Head Lice Information Package* are to be completed and returned to the school.
- Your child may return to school after proper treatment and after all head lice, eggs, nits have been removed. He/she may be checked by school personnel.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about head lice, please contact the principal at your child's school, or you may call the Head Lice Information Line (883-2286) at the Waterloo Region Community Health Department and listen to the recorded message.

We thank you for your assistance since the control of head lice requires the co-operative effort of parents, school personnel and health professionals.