



VENERINI ACADEMY

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Dear Parents,

This time of year can become complicated with increased risks of head lice. With all the travel during vacations and other activities, there is an increase risk of exposure. You can help prevent this by checking your child frequently, contacting your doctor if necessary and notifying the school nurse of the condition if your child has an infestation.

While trying to be pro-active and keeping our students at a minimal risk we are asking for your help. We would ask that you provide your child with a gallon size zip-lock bag. This will be kept inside his/her locker labeled with his/her name. The children will be placing their personal hat and scarf inside this gallon size bag and zip it sealed in order to minimize the possibility of transmission. We are asking that all students have a zip-lock bag in place as soon as possible to help prevent transmission. Thank you for your cooperation.

Here is some additional information:

PEDICULOSIS (Head Lice)

Infestation of the skin and hair by lice. The lice grow in minute round eggs (nits) that are attached to the base of the hair. Very rarely can one see head lice.

- SYMPTOMS:
1. Itching
 2. Scratches or rash on head
 3. Swollen lymph glands
 4. Nits

*****Check closely near ears and base of scalp*****

- TRANSMITTED:
1. Direct contact
 2. Personal items - combs, brushes, etc.
 3. Clothing - hats, hoods, bed clothing, towels

- TREATMENT:
1. Shampoo as suggested by your doctor or pharmacist
 2. Remove all nits (lice eggs). A special comb is using provided with shampoo

**Guidelines for treatment are found on the back of this letter.

Sincerely,

Audra Kelliher, R.N.
School Nurse

WHEN YOUR CHILD COMES HOME WITH HEAD LICE.....

Don't panic. Anyone can get head lice. It has nothing to do with cleanliness, nor does it reflect on you as a parent. The problem is easily eliminated. Simply follow these instructions.

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 be treated.
3. Use an effective head lice treatment. Your pharmacist can recommend an effective pediculicide product. When used as directed, it will be very effective in killing head lice.
4. Remove all nits (lice eggs). Because no pediculicide product kills all the eggs, it is very important to remove all traces of the nits to prevent re-infestation. A special comb for this task is usually provided with the lice treatment product.
5. Wash all clothes, bed linens and towels in hot water and dry on a hot cycle for at least 20 minutes. Items that cannot be safely washed, such as stuffed animals, should be dry cleaned or stored outside the home for a minimum of two weeks. Backpacks, place your child's backpack in the dryer too. 20 Minutes on high. Sports helmets should be bagged and stored as well.
6. Clean combs and brushes in hot, soapy water. Water should be at least 130F, and it is advisable to let combs and brushes soak in the hot water for 10 minutes. This includes all hair accessories, headbands, fancy bows, etc.
7. Vacuum everywhere to make sure your home is free of lice. Vacuum carpets, pillows, mattresses, upholstered furniture; anything that might hold lice. Do a thorough job and discard the vacuum bag promptly. Also, don't forget to vacuum your car. Vacuum your seats or run a lint remover over them.

HEAD LICE SURVIVE ONLY ON HUMANS, and do not affect family pets. To eliminate head lice and nits from your home, follow the directions above. Doing a thorough job will prevent their spread in the neighborhood. As a parent I know how busy we all get and this can be very stressful for a family. Here are a few helpful links to get you through this process if you should find you need it:

1. www.liceaunties.com (617) 901-0620. They come directly to your home and guarantee their work. They will treat your child and advise you on your home care plans. There is a fee for this service and they cover the Worcester area and surrounding towns.
2. The National Pediculosis Assoc. Inc. www.headlice.org
3. About head lice-Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head