

MAYWOOD

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Michael Jordan
Superintendent

Telephone
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Memorial Parents:

This memo is being sent to all families whose children attend Memorial School. We were alerted today that a child in kindergarten was confirmed to have head lice. The parent of the child indicated that she was alerted to check her child due to information of cases found in children in outside activities that her child also attends. Please examine your child's hair and scalp for evidence of live lice, lice eggs, or nits (egg casings left behind after lice have hatched). If lice or eggs are present, they will be found close to the scalp. If you find head lice please notify your child's school, daycare or others with whom your child may have had direct head to head contact. Children with head lice should be treated immediately to minimize the spread to other individuals. We emphasize the need for parents to consistently remind their children to avoid sharing hats and caps and making head to head contact with classmates.

To reiterate, anyone can get head lice mainly through direct head-to-head contact but also from sharing hats, brushes and other personal items. Head lice are a problem in many communities and do not reflect poor hygiene or social status. Please do your part to prevent the spread of this communicable condition by checking your child/children daily for the next few weeks, and on a regular basis thereafter. Lice infestation is much easier to treat if caught early.

If you should discover a case of head lice, please notify your child's school, child care center or camp. Please also notify the parents of your child's playmates. This is the best way to protect your family and community.

Shake a toy, share a slide, share the feelings deep inside, but NEVER share a hat or comb, or lice could make your head their home!

Sincerely,

Michael Jordan
Superintendent of Schools

CAUSATIVE AGENT

Lice are wingless crawling insects. Color varies from translucent to black. Their eggs/nits are laid on the hair shaft anywhere on the head. They are not carriers of any disease. There is no relationship between personal hygiene or cleanliness of the home and lice.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Redness and/or itching of the head, live lice, lice eggs, or nits found close to the scalp.

INCUBATION PERIOD

Lice hatch in 8-10 days. Without human blood, a louse will die within 24 hours.

METHOD OF TRANSMISSION

The most important action to control head lice is to discourage head-to-head contact with an infested individual until the live lice are removed. If one person in the household has head lice, everyone in that household should be checked for lice. Those with live lice, lice eggs or nits within 1cm of the scalp should be treated.

TREATMENT

Please consult your physician and/or school nurse for further information.