

HEAD LICE

DATE OF EXPOSURE: _____

NOTICE TO PARENTS

Your child may have been exposed to head lice. Please examine your child's hair and scalp for evidence of lice today and daily over the next two weeks. If you find head lice or nits on your child, please notify your child's school, day-care, car pool and any other contacts.

School policy excludes children from school with live lice.

CAUSATIVE AGENT: Lice are wingless crawling insects. Their color varies from translucent to black. Their eggs, called nits, are laid on the hair shaft anywhere on the head.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS: Sometimes there is redness and/or itching behind and around the ears and at the nape of the neck.

INCUBATION PERIOD: Lice hatch in 8-10 days. Without human blood, a louse will die within 4-5 days.

METHOD OF TRANSMISSION: Head lice live only on humans. They are spread by close contact with an infested individual. Contaminated objects may also transmit head lice, combs, hats, helmets, towels, bedding, clothing and costumes. Teach your child not to share personal items.

TREATMENT: For effective treatment guidelines, please see "Control and Treatment of Head Lice" available in your child's school office, or on line at: <http://www.marinschools.org/Health/Communicable/LiceBrochureEn.pdf>

For more information, contact your health care provider, your School Nurse, the Marin County Health Department or: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html>

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