



# ALVIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## SAVE THIS IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Dear Parents:

Head lice infestations continue to be a problem in our community and in surrounding communities. Lice are highly communicable and difficult to prevent. The close contact that children have at school further complicates the situation. Alvin ISD is committed to working with families on this frustrating problem and requests that you periodically screen your child to facilitate the early detection of head lice. The following information should help you identify head lice and treat your child safely and thoroughly.

### INFORMATION ON HEAD LICE

#### How do you get lice?

- ◆ Many people associate lice with unclean people or homes. This is **not true** in the case of head lice.
- ◆ Frequent bathing or shampooing will not prevent lice nor eliminate them once they are established.
- ◆ Lice cannot jump or fly and are usually transmitted by contact with infested persons, their clothing, or their comb or brush.
- ◆ Children should be warned against sharing hats, helmets, clothing, or grooming aids with others.
- ◆ Household pets do not transmit lice.

#### What to look for:

- ◆ Lice are small insects about the size of a sesame seed.
- ◆ They are usually light brown, but can vary in color.
- ◆ Diagnosis is more often made on the basis of finding nits (eggs).
- ◆ Nits are tiny, yellowish-white oval eggs attached to the hair shafts.

#### **Alvin ISD is enforcing the following procedures:**

- ◆ School nurses screen for head lice, when suspected. Siblings of a child with an infestation will be screened as well.
- ◆ Entire class screenings will not be conducted, as they are not proven to be an effective means to prevent further infestation and are not recommended by the American Pediatric Association.
- ◆ If live lice are found on a child, the parent is notified to pick up the child immediately.
- ◆ If only nits are found on a child, the parent is notified by phone and the student will go home at the end of the school day.

The following steps **MUST** be performed by the parent **BEFORE** the child is admitted back to school:

1. Shampoo with the proper prescription or non-prescription shampoo.  
**NOTE:** Recent information indicates that using **only** the shampoo will **not** control the lice (nit) infestation.
2. Inspect all persons in the household and treat those who have lice or nits.
3. Wash all bed linens, towels, and clothes (including jackets) that the child has contacted. The use of insecticidal sprays is discouraged because they may be harmful to family members and pets.
4. **REMOVE ALL NITS** – Thorough removal of all nits is **required** before the child can return to school. This can be done with a special comb or by picking the nits out by hand.
5. Upon return to school, you will need to accompany your child to the nurse's office to be cleared before reentry to the classroom.
6. Students may be excused from school on the day lice are found.
7. Students will only be excused for a total of four days per school year due to head lice.

**Note: More detailed treatment procedures and information can be obtained from your school nurse**

While the school district takes a proactive stance, family support is essential. If every parent will assume responsibility to regularly screen the entire family, these parasites can be detected early and controlled. With your cooperation, we can protect our children and avoid the frustrations associated with head lice.

Should you have additional questions, please contact your school nurse.

Sincerely,

[school nurse]