

**SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**1651 Sixteenth Street, Santa Monica, California, 90404-3891 - (310) 450-8338**  
**Department of Health Services**

Lice Notice

School:

Class:

Date:

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

The presence of head lice (pediculosis) has been identified in your child's classroom. Since your child may be exposed to this infestation, it is important you are aware of the symptoms, treatment procedures, and your role in the prevention of the spread of this contagious disease. Head lice can affect anyone. Prompt treatment and reporting are essential to control this epidemic.

SYMPTOMS: Persistent itching is the most common symptom. If your child is constantly scratching his/her head, check for lice. A severe infestation can cause inflammation and open sores on the scalp, and swollen lymph glands in the neck.

EVIDENCE: Adult lice, wingless crawling insects, are hard to see. Look for the eggs (nits), which are glued to the hair shafts. Nits are tiny, gray-white, teardrop shaped objects, usually found in clusters above the ears, at the nape of the neck, or the crown of the head. Compared to dandruff, which flicks off easily, or hair casts caused by hair spray, which easily slide up and down the hair shaft, nits adhere tightly to the hair shaft. They have to be removed manually.

TREATMENT: Check with your physician or purchase a high quality lice-killing shampoo at your local drugstore. No prescription is needed. Shampoo your child's hair as directed on the product label. Rinse well. Vinegar rinse (2 tbsp. white vinegar/1 quart of hot water) or "detangling" conditioner may help. Dry with a towel. REMOVE ALL NITS using fingernails or a "lice" comb. For resistant cases you can get prescription shampoo from your health care provider.

HOME HYGIENE: Examine all family members. If infested, treat promptly. Notify your child's playmates, who might be infested. NOTIFY SCHOOL NURSE. Machine wash, in HOT water, all washable towels, combs, hairbrushes, sheets, pillowcases, and washable clothing. For non-washable articles such as backpacks, bed pillows and stuffed animals, place in a hot dryer for twenty minutes. For car seats and fabric seats in your car, clean with a lice spray and vacuum or park in the hot sun with windows up for a few hours. Wash all surfaces in the living and sleeping areas, as well as the bathroom(s), especially chair backs.

**BEFORE BEING RE- ADMITTED TO SCHOOL, THE STUDENT MUST BE INSPECTED BY THE NURSE OR THE FRONT OFFICE PERSONNEL. A CHILD WHO IS FOUND TO HAVE LIVE LICE WILL BE EXCLUDED AGAIN FROM SCHOOL.**

Please refer to [www.smmusd.org](http://www.smmusd.org) website for more information (under Departments and Health).

Sincerely,

SMMUSD School Nurse

Phone Number