



School year 2019 - 2020 Procedures for head lice:

Current public health standards and research-based recommendations indicate that routine screening and management *at home* are the key factors in the effective control of head lice. Therefore, our emphasis is on prevention through parental education, collaboration and communication. Mass screenings for head lice are no longer conducted routinely in our schools. Not only are they ineffective as a method of control, but also, they result in loss of instructional time, misdiagnosed cases, and stigma for children who are sent home in the middle of the day. While head lice are a nuisance, lice do not cause disease and, when first identified on a head, have usually been there for a few weeks. They are very annoying and are sometimes difficult to get rid of, but they are not dangerous. Head lice are usually best controlled when managed through a combination of mechanical and chemical means, along with housekeeping techniques currently recommended by public health experts. If you have any questions about this topic, or if you need information about prevention or management, please call your school nurse, or Sue Beardsley, Director of Health Services at 860-658-0451 ext 711.