



## **Renville County Public Health Services**

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Dear Parents;

There has been a case of head lice reported in your child's classroom.

Head lice can happen to anyone. It is not a sign having poor health or being dirty. The most important fact to remember is that the problem should be quickly treated because delays will only spread the infestation throughout your family and community.

**Signs of Infestation** - Head lice are hard to see but some signs to look for include:

- A family member persistently scratching the head or back of the neck.
- White specks in the hair. Look for whitish to clear eggs, which can be mistaken for dandruff. Dandruff is removed easily from the hair or scalp. However, nits (eggs) are glued to the hair shaft and are very difficult to remove.

Please take the time to check your child's hair now and periodically throughout the school year. The nurse does not do classroom checks unless there is a major outbreak. Lice are generally transferred from head to head contact. This can occur at school, at home, at family gatherings, and in the community.

Lice and nits can survive for a short time off of the body. Thorough vacuuming of the house is your best defense. Human lice does not survive on pets very long. But it may survive long enough to transfer live lice from one child's head to another if they are both having head-to-head contact with the animal in a short period of time.

Help to avoid a major outbreak by teaching your child(ren) the following helpful tips:

- Do **NOT** share combs, hair ribbons or accessories, hats, clothing, or towels with other people.
- Teach them to put their mittens and hat in the sleeve of their coat when they take them off.
- Wash winter coats and hats frequently. Wash them immediately if someone else has worn them.

If you have further questions, please contact your school nurse at the school or at Renville County Public Health at 320-523-2570 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

Jo Panitzke, RN  
School Nurse