



SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY

P.O. BOX 391
BARTOW, FLORIDA 33831

(863) 534-0500

1915 SOUTH FLORAL AVENUE
BARTOW, FLORIDA 33830

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General Counsel

Administration
SHERRIE B. NICKELL, Ed.D
Superintendent

August 22, 2011

Learning Support
2011-022
Contact: Robbin Chapman, RN
at 291-5355

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Principals and Certified Health Contacts

FROM: Nancy Woolcock, Assistant Superintendent, Learning Support
Linda Troupe, Director, Student Services
Audrey Kelley-Fritz, Senior Manager, Prevention, Health and Wellness

SUBJECT: Head Lice

Students who come to school with head lice contribute to the spread of this condition in Polk County Schools. **Head lice epidemics are not confined to elementary schools. Middle schools, high schools and even local colleges have reported head lice outbreaks.**

While detection and treatment of head lice remain the primary responsibility of parents/guardians, school personnel are often more likely to detect an outbreak or epidemic. It is very important that students be checked on a regular basis to prevent an epidemic. Ignoring this problem will only worsen the long-term effects in our schools and it will not simply "go away."

School-wide screenings should be conducted throughout the academic year on elementary students after the following:

- Summer Break
- Winter Break

Each new student should also be checked within the first week of attendance, ideally before starting class the first day. School principals may have additional school-wide screenings as needed. Clinic LPNs or clinic aides should maintain clinic records of students who have been sent home due to head lice and the date they return to school. **Extended absenteeism due to head lice is unnecessary.**

Please distribute the attached "parent letter" to each student to take home to his or her parent/guardian. Also, you may want to file this memo for distribution **prior** to the Winter Break.

As always, thanks for your cooperation.

Enclosures: English Version Head Lice Parent Letter
Spanish Version Head Lice Parent Letter



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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Students who come to school with head lice contribute to the spread of this condition in Polk County Schools. Control of head lice depends on prompt identification and effective treatment. You can help by checking your child's head for the presence of head lice or louse nits on a regular basis.

To check your child's head:

1. Tilt your child's head forward so the chin is close to the chest.
2. Part the hair behind the ears and on the back of the neck.
3. Observe the hair and scalp areas for nits (louse eggs) and/or live lice.

If you find nits or lice, check all other family members. For treatment, check with your family doctor, or follow the recommendations given below:

a. Treatments

- Five Step Battle Plan (Olive Oil Treatment Plan may be obtained from school clinic)
- Over-the-counter head lice treatment
- Prescription head lice treatment (obtained from a doctor)

If any family member is pregnant, has an illness or is under the age of two, check with your doctor before treating. Follow the directions on the package carefully, because these products contain toxic chemicals, which may be harmful if used incorrectly. The effectiveness of these products depends on proper use.

- b. Wash all of your child's clothing and bedding (or seal them in a plastic bag for a week). Vacuum carpets, upholstered furniture (including car seats) and stuffed animals (or seal them in a plastic bag for a week).
- c. Polk County Schools have a "no nit" policy. **All nits (louse eggs) must be removed from your child's hair before returning to school.** This may be done by using a fine tooth comb or by pulling them from each strand of hair by hand. This is an important step for preventing reinfestation.
- d. The Polk County School Board's Head Lice Policy recommends that elementary schools do school-wide checks on students after summer and winter holidays. School principals may have additional school-wide screenings conducted throughout the academic year. **Children will be sent home if they are found to have live lice or nits.**

The head louse dies within forty-eight hours without human contact. Please help us keep the Polk County School Buildings lice-free by checking and treating your children for head lice before they return to school. Thank you for your cooperation.

School Principal

The School Board of Polk County, Florida, prohibits any and all forms of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, homelessness, or disability or other basis prohibited by law in any of its programs, services, activities or employment. To file concerns, you may contact the Office of Equity & Compliance in the Human Resource Services Division at (863) 534-0513.

If you require any type of accommodation to complete the application process due to a disability, please call the Human Resource Services Division at (863) 534-0781. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, please contact the Polk County School District by calling Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771.

Revised 8-11



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Estimado Padre/Tutor:

Los estudiantes que vienen a la escuela con piojos contribuyen a la propagación de esta condición médica contagiosa. El control de piojos depende de la pronta identificación y del tratamiento efectivo. Usted puede ayudar revisando la cabeza de su niño/a con regularidad por la presencia de piojos y liendres.

Para revisar la cabeza de su niño/a:

1. Incline la cabeza de su niño/a hacia el frente con la barbilla tocando el pecho.
2. Divida el cabello detrás de las orejas y en la parte de atrás del cuello.
3. Observe las áreas del cabello y del cuero cabelludo por la presencia de liendres (huevos de piojos) y/o piojos vivos.

Si usted encuentra liendres o piojos, revise a todos los otros miembros de la familia. Para tratamiento, coteje con su doctor familiar, o siga las recomendaciones que se dan abajo:

- a. Tratamientos
 - Plan de Batalla de los Cinco Pasos (El Plan del Tratamiento de Aceite de Oliva se puede obtener en la clínica de la escuela)
 - Tratamiento para los piojos comprado sin receta
 - Tratamiento para los piojos recetado por el médico

Si alguien en la familia está embarazada, tiene una enfermedad o es menor de dos años, coteje con su doctor antes de tratar a esa persona. Siga cuidadosamente las direcciones del paquete ya que a que estos productos contienen sustancias químicas tóxicas, que pueden ser perjudiciales si son usados incorrectamente. La eficacia de estos productos depende del uso apropiado.

- b. Lave toda la ropa de su niño/a y la ropa de cama (o póngala en una bolsa plástica sellada por una semana). Limpie con una aspiradora la alfombra, los muebles tapizados (incluyendo los asientos del carro), y los animales de peluche (o póngalos en una bolsa plástica sellada por una semana).
- c. Las Escuelas del Condado de Polk tienen una política de "no liendres". **Todas las liendres (huevos de piojos) deben ser removidas del cabello de su niño/a antes de regresar a la escuela.** Esto puede ser hecho usando un peine de dientes finos o sacándolos a mano de cada hebra del cabello. Éste es un paso importante para prevenir volver a infectarse.
- d. La Política de Piojos de la Junta Escolar del Condado de Polk recomienda que todas las escuelas revisen a todos los estudiantes después del verano y de los días feriados de invierno. Los directores de las escuelas pueden llevar a cabo otras revisiones de todos los estudiantes a lo largo del año escolar. **Los niños serán enviados al hogar si se les encuentran piojos vivos o liendres.**

Las liendres mueren dentro de cuarenta y ocho horas sin no tienen contacto humano. Favor de ayudarnos a mantener los edificios escolares del Condado de Polk libre de piojos al revisar y tratar los piojos de sus niños antes de que regresen a la escuela. Gracias por su cooperación.

Director/a de la Escuela

La Junta Escolar del Condado de Polk, Florida, prohíbe cualquier y todas las formas de discriminación y acoso por motivos de raza, color, sexo, religión, origen nacional, estado civil, edad, falta de vivienda o incapacidad u otras bases prohibidas por ley en cualquiera de sus programas, servicios, actividades o empleo. Para presentar preocupaciones, puede ponerse en contacto con la Oficina de Equidad y Cumplimiento, División de Servicios de Recursos Humanos en el 863-534-0513.

Si necesita cualquier tipo de acomodados para completar el proceso de solicitud debido a incapacidad favor de llamar a la División de Servicios de Recursos Humanos al (863)534-0781. Si usted es sordo o tiene dificultad para escuchar, favor de ponerse en contacto el Distrito Escolar del Condado de Polk llamando a Florida Relay Service al 1-800-955-8771.

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