



## **Box Elder School District**

Dr. Ron Tolman, Superintendent  
O. Jay & Tamra Call Education Center  
960 South Main Street  
Brigham City, Utah 84302

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Dear Parents,

This is to notify you that a case of head lice was confirmed at your child's school. There is no reason to panic. The infestation of head lice will not lead to any other disease, nor does it mean that children are dirty. Unfortunately, this is a fairly common problem. Head lice concerns are made worse than it should be when parents or teachers react hysterically creating unkindness and mistreatment among children. Handling the problem responsibly is the best response to a head lice problem. To prevent further spread in the schools, this condition needs your immediate attention. Using a good strong light, please inspect your child's head, scalp, and hair carefully and look for lice, nits (eggs) or red patches on the scalp. Inspect the head, scalp and hair of everyone in your household. If you suspect lice, please notify the school for further instructions. If your child and household members are lice-free, we ask you NOT to use any lice shampoo at this time. Thank you for your cooperation. The school nurse can provide answers and make decisions regarding lice concerns in the school. If you have questions, you may contact the school nurse at 734-4800 or 279-8716.

### **WHAT ARE HEAD LICE?**

- Head lice are tiny (like sesame seeds), wingless, bloodsucking insects that feed on the human scalp.
- Lice are usually found on the hair behind the ears, at the back of the neck and on the crown area. They usually cause scratching and itching.
- They do not live on animals and cannot live away from the human host longer than 20 hours.
- They do not fly or jump, but crawl at a high speed.
- They are not an indication of poor hygiene or parental neglect.
- Head lice lay eggs (nits) which are tear drop shaped, off white, and are securely attached to the hair shaft close to the scalp. They are not easily brushed off and shouldn't be confused with dandruff, gel, or hairspray.
- Lice live about one month. They reproduce rapidly. The egg will become a louse in one week and after one week the new louse will begin producing more nits.

### **WHERE DO LICE COME FROM?**

- Head lice crawl from one head to another.
- The most common method of transfer is by direct head contact between two children.
- Transfer also occurs through shared combs, brushes, headgear, or jackets hung side-by-side.

### **HOW TO KNOW IF YOUR CHILD HAS HEAD LICE**

- Examine your child weekly.
- Work in small areas (about 1 inch), parting the hair with a comb to look for eggs attached to the hair near the scalp.
- Because lice travel so quickly, you are less likely to find the lice themselves, so it is important to look closely for eggs. If you observe your child scratching his/her hair, that is a sign of possible infestation - check for lice!

### **WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND HEAD LICE**

- If you find head lice, use a lice-killing shampoo available at pharmacies and drug stores. The shampoo should be applied to DRY hair. This will kill the lice and most of the eggs. Reapplication of the shampoo will be needed in seven (7) days to ensure effectiveness. It is also important to remove the nits from the hair. A vinegar rinse on the hair will help release the eggs.
- Wash your child's clothes, bedding, combs, and brushes. Vacuum carpet and furniture.
- Keep bedding, especially pillow cases, changed nightly until nits have been removed.

Box Elder School District School Nurses

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## **Office of the School Nurses**

Phone: 435-734-4800  
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