

BRIDGETON PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
Administrative Offices
1101 WHEATON AVE.
MILLVILLE, NJ 08332
856-691-1611



SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020

Ann F. Garcia Ed.D
Executive Director

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Dear Parents or Guardians:

As you may know, head lice cases are common among school-aged children. An estimated 6 to 12 million infestations occur each year in the United States, most commonly among children ages 3 to 11. There has been a case of head lice reported in the school this year. To help prevent the spread of head lice, here is some general information. The Vineland Public Charter School's Management of Pediculosis policy has also been uploaded under the nurse's corner tab. What are head lice? Head lice are tiny, wingless insects that live close to the human scalp. They feed on blood. The eggs, also called nits, are tiny, tear-drop shaped eggs that attach to the hair shaft. Nits often appear yellowish or white and can look like dandruff but cannot be removed or brushed off. The nymph, baby louse, is smaller and grows to adult size in 1 to 2 weeks. The adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed and is tan to grayish-white. An itchy scalp is a common symptom of lice but does not automatically mean your child has lice. Who is affected by head lice? Head lice are not related to cleanliness. Infestations occur at home, school, or in the community. Head lice are most commonly spread by direct head-to-head contact; for example, during play at home or school, slumber parties, sports activities, or camp. Lice can also be spread via objects that have been in recent contact with a person with head lice, such as hats, scarves, hair ribbons, combs, brushes, stuffed animals, or bedding. What to do if you think your child has head lice? It is important to talk to your family's health care provider right away to discuss the best treatment approach. There are many over-the-counter medicated shampoos available at your local stores. It is important to follow the directions of your health care provider or the directions on the treatment bottle entirely. As your school nurse, I want to provide you with the information you need to address any head lice issues that may occur, and encourage you to talk with your healthcare provider to resolve the problem as quickly and effectively as possible. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at the number above or feel free to email me. My main focus is your child's health!

Sincerely,
Maryanne McCarty RN, School nurse

