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BERLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Every year lice seem to find their way to school. Although they are a nuisance, they do not pose any health threat. They do not carry disease or cause illness. Past practices of excluding children from school and alert letters have been proven to be of no benefit. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses and the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) all recommend that children stay in school. Berlin Township Schools follows these recommendations as endorsed by these medical agencies as well as our School Physician, Dr. Maffei and has incorporated them into our policies, procedures and medical standing orders.

Our management of head lice includes phoning the parent or guardian of the individual student and asking them to treat the child. The school nurse is available to recheck a student if parents wish. Class-wide and School-wide checks have also been proven ineffective. There are a multitude of products available to treat lice; your pharmacist or pediatrician can be of help with that decision.

Cleaning recommendations include soaking personal items like combs, brushes and hair ties in hot water for 20 minutes. Washable items should be placed in hot soapy water and dried in the dryer on hot setting. Non washables like bike helmets, head phones, and stuffed animals can be placed in an airtight plastic bag for 2 weeks.

Additional information on lice can be obtained from the sources below.

CDC—Centers for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/schools.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/parents.html>

The School Nurses Association

[https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/communities/community-](https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/communities/community-home/librarydocuments?LibraryKey=92ecb87b-338e-46d0-8da3-f058f43125e3&LibraryFolderKey=c9ec83cf-226e-401c-8777-9b88cccc06f5)

[home/librarydocuments?LibraryKey=92ecb87b-338e-46d0-8da3-](https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/communities/community-home/librarydocuments?LibraryKey=92ecb87b-338e-46d0-8da3-f058f43125e3&LibraryFolderKey=c9ec83cf-226e-401c-8777-9b88cccc06f5)

[f058f43125e3&LibraryFolderKey=c9ec83cf-226e-401c-8777-9b88cccc06f5](https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/communities/community-home/librarydocuments?LibraryKey=92ecb87b-338e-46d0-8da3-f058f43125e3&LibraryFolderKey=c9ec83cf-226e-401c-8777-9b88cccc06f5)

Sincerely,

Edythe B. Austermuhl, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Lisa Gillespie, RN
JFK School Nurse

“Educating Today For Tomorrow’s Success”