

# Paramus Public Schools

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In accordance with current scientific research and best practice standards recommended by the Center for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics, the Harvard School of Public Health, and the National Association of School Nurses, Paramus has adopted a proactive approach in assessment and treatment of head lice.

According to the position statement of The National Association of School Nurses (2016), it is unlikely that all head lice infestations can be prevented. Parents/caregivers will benefit from receiving support from the school nurse about the importance of regular surveillance at home, choosing and adhering to the protocols of evidence-based treatment recommendations, and educating to dispel head lice myths. The education mission of schools will be supported by implementing evidence-based policies and strategies under the guidance of the school nurse. The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families, and communities far outweighs the perceived risks associated with head lice.

Students who have been identified with head lice will be treated at home before returning to school, but will not be excluded from school. Evidenced-based practice is centered on the following facts:

- Head lice are not a health hazard or sign of poor hygiene.
- Head lice cannot jump or fly.
- Head lice are mostly spread through direct head-to-head contact.
- It is uncommon to spread head lice by contact with clothing or other personal items.
- Students should be discouraged from sharing any hair items or having any head-to-head contact.

Please take a moment to view the resources on the district website and contact your school nurse if you have any questions.

For more information, visit the following websites:

Center for Disease Control (CDC)  
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)  
American Academy of Dermatology (AAD)  
National Association of School Nurses (NASN)  
Mayo Clinic  
Harvard School of Public Health  
World Health Organization (WHO)

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)  
[www.aad.org](http://www.aad.org)  
[www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org)  
[www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org)  
[www.hsph.harvard.edu](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu)  
[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

Sincerely,

District School Nurses