

**GORHAM SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
HEALTH SERVICES**

**TO: ALL PARENTS  
FROM: TERESA M. MERRILL R.N. ( Telephone 222-1224)  
RE: HEAD LICE  
APRIL 27, 2011**

Just a note to let you know I have found evidence of head lice in your child's school. A number of cases have been discovered throughout the building. We know you are as concerned as we all are and want to eliminate this problem quickly. We are asking you to assist us by checking your children nightly for the next week or so.

Signs of head lice are:

1. Scratching
2. Small bite marks or scratch marks on the scalp
3. Nits or louse eggs (nits are small yellow-white oval shaped specks that are attached to the hair shaft). Nits will not blow away like dandruff but are firmly attached to the hair shaft.
4. Live louse can be very difficult to detect as they move very quickly and shy away from light.

Examine your child's head under good light. Pay particular attention to the areas around the ears and at the nape of the neck. If you suspect your child has head lice please notify me and I will confirm your findings. I am happy to assist you in any way possible. **PLEASE DO NOT TREAT ANYONE WITH HEAD LICE SHAMPOO UNLESS YOU ARE SURE HEAD LICE IS PRESENT.**

I know that talk of head lice can cause anxiety for many children, so please talk to your children about head lice. What are they? How do they spread? Explain that this is not a question of hygiene but an issue of social practices such as sharing personal items (combs, brushes, clothing, sports equipment etc).

It is essential that you notify me if your child has head lice. I have attached a copy of the district's procedure for handling head lice as well as some home care instructions to follow if you find you need them. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your cooperation and please remember to notify the school nurse if you suspect your child has head lice.