

Head Lice

1. What are head lice? Head lice are tiny gray-black opaque insects that live near the scalp of a human host. They feed on blood and lay eggs called “nits,” most commonly behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. The eggs are yellowish-white and adhere firmly to the hair shaft approximately 1” from the scalp.

2. When should head lice be suspected? Both the insect and its eggs are visible. An infected person commonly has persistent itching, but not always. Sometimes small bites can be seen on the scalp.

3. How does someone get head lice? Head lice are transmitted by direct person-to-person contact, or by using the personal belongings of an infected person (i.e. brushes, combs, hats, headbands, etc.). Head lice do not “jump” from one person to another. They will, however, live on personal articles such as bedding, hats, etc. When there are groups of children gathering, there is an increased risk of a child contracting head lice. That is why we can see outbreaks in school.

4. If my child has head lice, what is the BHA policy? It is recommended that parents contact their physician for advisement regarding medicated hair treatment. Parents are required to notify the school health office if their child. Students found to have head lice and/or nits:

- Will be sent home for treatment. Brighter Horizon Academy has a no lice and no nits policy.
- Students, who are found to have lice and/or nits, will not return to class and a parent will be contacted for pick up.
- Parents are required to pick up their child within 1 hour of notification.
- Students must remain home for 24-hour for treatment and care of hair.
- A very important part of treatment is to make sure all “nits” are removed. This will reduce the chance of re-infestation. Students must be cleared by a school health before returning to school.

In addition to the case of head lice, the student (s) must treat their hair with a pharmaceutical lice treatment shampoo, disinfect linens, and remove nits/eggs from the hair of the affected student(s). Students must be seen and cleared by the health office, even with a doctor’s note of clearance to be admitted back to class. **Students who are sent home or are not in school due to any health related reasons are excluded from all BHA school activities including after school activities.** (Sports, Clubs, Events, etc.)