



Beardstown Community Unit Schools

500 East 15th Street - Board Office

Beardstown, Illinois 62618

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Provide a challenging and responsive, educational environment in a changing community that creates caring, socially responsible, and exemplary students.

Please refer to the following link on the IDPH website regarding facts about Head Lice:

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/hb/hblice.htm> Our teachers do an awesome job in the prevention of head lice, but with the help of parents, the likelihood of prevention is increased even more. Head lice is a confidential issue, as well as all health issues and can be an embarrassment to some. Do not share anyone's or personal description with others. Let me assure you that **ANYONE** can get head lice.

In an effort to prevent the spread of head lice, or for that matter, fleas, roaches, spiders, bed bugs or any other insects, the teachers are encouraged to:

- ** Use individual lockers, no sharing of lockers or PE lockers.
- ** Keep pillows, bean bags, blankets, etc **OUT** of the classroom.
- ** Remind children that they **MAY NOT** pile their coats together in the gym, classroom or outside recess.
- ** Discourage the use of personal items of other such as hats, combs, hair ties, brushes, sweatshirts, etc.
- ** Discourage close contact such as hugging, playing with another student's hair or selfies.
- ** Discourage lying on the floor.

Our staff does not want to take this home to their families either. These insects do not discriminate and absolutely anyone can "**GET**" them.

IT IS ALSO EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU EDUCATE YOUR CHILD ABOUT THESE ALSO, SINCE MOST OF THESE ABOVE ISSUES CAN ALSO OCCUR OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING

Each time I check heads, we have a lengthy discussion about the prevention and treatment of head lice. We do our best at school to prevent the spread of any insect. As mentioned on the

IDPH website, "head lice **DO NOT** jump or fly, but crawl", so close contact is one of the most common ways to spread them. Some ways that you can help educate your children on prevention would be:

** Make sure coats/belongings are kept separate from others belonging at ANY after school program/activity:

****Please be extra cautious with the following events and gatherings:**

- Skating- piling up of coats
- Sleepovers – take your own pillow blankets/sleeping bags
- Dance and practices-piling up of coats
- Ball and ball practice – also wearing your own hat/helmet
- Tumbling -
- Movie theaters – heads on the back of the chairs
- Other students riding in your car with their head against your seats
- Trying on Halloween hats/costumes – for example the HUGE animal heads that were at Walmart during Halloween
- Taking “selfies” when heads are close together
- When visiting friends and family members from other schools or from out of town- sitting on their couches, lying on their floors or sleeping in their beds (as an example)
- Any type of activity that would involve removing outer clothing and throwing them on the floor.
- The babysitters/day care contacts

These are just some examples of how insects might be transferred from one person to another. There are MANY other ways. It is also VERY important that EVERY person in the home or in close contact with someone who has head lice be checked and/or treated as a precaution.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Middle School/High School Nurse's Office, 217-323-3665 EXT 2107