**HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS CAPITIS)**

*Head lice (Pediculosis capitis)* infestation is common in theUnited States among children 3 to 12 years of age; approximately6 to 12 million have infestations each year. Head lice are nota health hazard or a sign of uncleanliness and are not responsiblefor the spread of any disease. The most common symptom is itching.

**TREATMENT**

To eliminate head lice successfully, it is very important that all treatment instructions and steps be carefully followed and completed; please contact your private physician for recommended lice treatment products.

**PREVENTION**

It is probably impossible to totally prevent head lice infestations.Young children come into close head-to-head contact with eachother frequently. It is prudent for children to be taught notto share personal items such as combs, brushes, and hats. Inenvironments where children are together, adults should be awareof the signs and symptoms of head lice infestation, and affectedchildren should be treated promptly to minimize spread to others.

*Parents should be encouraged to check their children’sheads for lice if the child is symptomatic; school screeningsdo not take the place of these more careful checks.*

**SCHOOL**

***If a case of infestation is identified, the school nurse will recheck a child’s head prior to the start of the school day.*** If you have other questions about head lice you may obtain information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/parents.html.