



BCE Nurse's Notes – October 12, 2017

Lice

Lice love Austin's humid climate and all of its families—even families with spotless houses and spotless children! Lice spread whenever heads touch—hugs, group projects, play dates, sleepovers, snuggles, photos—and when combs, brushes and hats are shared.

Lice have little hooks on their feet that are exquisitely designed to grasp human hair. They cannot cling to hard surfaces. They do not carry disease and are not considered a public health issue by the Centers for Disease Control or the American Academy of Pediatrics. Nevertheless, they are a nuisance. We ask every family to participate in efforts to keep lice from spreading at school. Here is how we can work together.

- Teach children to avoid head-to-head contact and to avoid sharing hat/combs/brushes.
- Keep long hair pulled back or up.
- If I detect lice on a student at school, I will call the parent and send the child home for treatment.
- If you detect lice on your child at home, please notify me and treat your child before returning to school.
- Treatment failures happen—even expensive professional treatments—so please allow me to re-check your child before he/she returns to class. A few survivors can re-infest your family and friends. It's no fun to start over.
- If I become aware that a student has lice, I will notify the parents of that grade level via Skyward Message Center. The student name and homeroom remain confidential, of course.

My nurse website <http://bcenurse.weebly.com> has links to lots of helpful lice information.

- Centers for Disease Control website
- Handouts with expert tips

Please call or drop by if I can answer questions or give you a hands-on demonstration. I am happy to help!

Vaccine-Preventable Disease News:

- San Diego **Hepatitis A outbreak** continues with 17 deaths and over 325 people hospitalized; cases reported in Los Angeles County, Santa Cruz County, and Salt Lake County (UT)

The County of San Diego Board of Supervisors has extended the local health emergency as the number of hepatitis A cases continues to rise in San Diego County. According to Dr. Wilma Wooten, Public Health Officer for the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, the number of cases has risen to 461, with 325 hospitalizations since November and 17 confirmed fatalities. The outbreak has spread to Los Angeles County, with 12 cases; Santa Cruz County, with 70 cases; and Salt Lake County, Utah, with 25 cases. In each area affected by this outbreak, intensive vaccination and other prevention measures are under way. CDC will be sending two workers to assist the San Diego public health department with its plans to combat the outbreak.

- **Type A Flu** has been diagnosed in EISD already this fall.