



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
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Commissioner

**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION**
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Chancellor

**OFFICE OF
SCHOOL HEALTH**

Date: _____

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Please note that a student in your child's class has head lice. Head lice occur commonly among school-age children. Head lice are not a sign of poor hygiene and anyone can get them. Lice do not transmit infections and do not endanger a person's health.

Lice pass from person to person by direct contact or by sharing clothing with lice on them. Head lice cause itching, commonly at the back of the head and neck or behind the ears. Many effective creams and shampoos are available over the counter or by prescription from your doctor.

New York City schools have a "no head lice" policy which means that any student who has lice in their hair or scalp is not allowed to attend school until they have received treatment. Following treatment, a child will be allowed back in school if his/her hair is free of lice upon re-inspection.

"No Head Lice" policies are supported by national organizations such as American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association and the National Association of School Nurses. Similar policies have been adopted successfully by school systems throughout the country.

We recommend that you remind your child not to share personal items such as brushes, combs or hats with other students.

If you have any further questions, please consult your healthcare provider or contact the school nurse at _____.