



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Niu Valley Middle School
An International Baccalaureate MYP World School
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May 25, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

For the 2016-2017 School Year, the Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area has adopted a new procedure to address ukus (head lice) in school. This new procedure is based on national recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Association of School Nurses. Under this new procedure, all students will remain in school regardless of the presence of ukus.

Students sent home for ukus contributes significantly to chronic absenteeism and studies show that academic success is closely tied to being present in school. As we implement the new procedure, the following protocol will be in effect:

- The school health aide will inspect the hair of students who are showing symptoms of ukus.
- If a student is noted to have live ukus, parents will be notified by phone. The Health Aide or Administrator will advise that treatment be started that evening.
- Parents have the option of picking up the student right away to start treatment. If not available, the student will go back to class and remain in school until the end of the school day.
- At the end of the school day, a note with information on treatment will be sent home with the student.
- The student may return to school the following day.
- Classroom and school-wide screenings will no longer be done as these efforts have not been shown to decrease the presence of ukus in schools.

We appreciate your help as we launch this new procedure in the Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area. If you would like assistance with treatment, our Health Aide and Public Health Nurses are available. If you have any questions about the procedure, please feel free to contact us. Your child's education is important to us all. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,


Sean S. Tajima
Principal



Facts About Ukus:

- Ukus DO NOT jump or fly. They crawl.
- Ukus can affect everyone equally
- Having ukus is NOT a sign of poor hygiene
- Ukus may be present for at least one (1) month before you may notice them
- Treatment is the ONLY way to get rid of ukus; this includes treating your home.
- Ukus are bothersome but they are NOT harmful and DO NOT spread disease
- They spread primarily through DIRECT head-to-head contact

Helpful Tips:

- Check your child's hair at least once a week and if ukus or nits are found, treat promptly. You can call your primary care provider for possible treatment solutions, some of which may be covered by insurance.
- The best prevention measures are to educate yourself and your child on how ukus spread and to treat as soon as they are found.
- Consider keeping your child's hair slicked back or tied up to help prevent live ukus from spreading. Remember, checking your child's hair once a week at home will help keep ukus out of your home and our school community.

Contacts and Resources:

Public Health Nurses Office for West Honolulu: 832-8757

Sumi Nakashima, RN	Kristen Speltz, RN
Jodie Sanada, RN	Leena Tamang, RN
Anayln Simon, RN	Jeannie Tamura, RN

Public Health Nurses Office for East Honolulu: 733-9220

Vicki Bunao, RN	Stacy Gibo, RN
Kathleen Garo, RN	Ivy Okasako, RN

Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) on Head Lice

<http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/dib/disease/head-lice/>

Kids Health webpage on Head Lice

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/head-lice.html>



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