

Comb First!

What is *Comb First*?

The National Pediculosis Association* (NPA) sponsors its National Head Lice Prevention Campaign each year to focus attention on the endemic state of head lice among children... to remind communities across the U.S. that pediculosis (head lice) is a problem we must acknowledge and to raise awareness by helping to implement prevention programs.

Why September?

Back-to-School is an excellent time to educate parents, children and the community about head lice. Parents should understand the communicability of head lice before outbreaks occur, how to make an accurate identification and how to remove head lice and nits (eggs) from their children in the safest and most effective ways.

What are the benefits?

Families learn how to carry out the most effective prevention measures at all times and the safest most thorough control measures possible. This enables families to make informed decisions to avoid potentially harmful products along with disruption that occurs when there is no public health standard in place.

Who participates?

School systems, child care centers, drug chains, individual pharmacies, health departments, camps, professional organizations, hair salons, HMO's, school nurses, parents, physicians, pharmacists and thousands of individuals...all working to keep the spirit of head lice prevention going strong each **September and throughout the year**. The success of the **Comb First** depends on the support of everyone interested in maintaining the highest possible public health standards for children.

How can you join the effort?

Participation can range from placing an announcement in your local newspaper to posting a prevention month bulletin board for your local PTA...and the NPA has developed educational resources to help you do it.

Congratulations!

Communities that promote head lice prevention programs demonstrate a commitment to family health and wellness.

Here's How To Participate!

POST: the NPA's Comb First Awareness graphic on your bulletin board.

ANNOUNCE: the Comb First policy in your newsletter journal or local paper. (See sample announcement below)

DOWNLOAD: and display the Comb First materials from www.headlice.org

Sample Newsletter/Journal Announcement

Mark Your Calendar ...September is Head Lice Prevention Month. Kids know that every month is head lice prevention month but September is the annual All Out Comb Out, which promotes the National Pediculosis Association's public health standard all year long. The NPA focuses on informing the community about prevention and safe control of head lice before outbreaks occur. Parents, school officials, health professionals and even the kids learn everything from identify head lice and nits, drawing awareness posters, asking questions, and getting correct answers, to playing Hair Force One at www.headlice.org/kids! Communities that encourage routine screening and detect head lice early, take advantage of a huge opportunity to minimize the panic and disruption that otherwise can occur. Informed decisions protect children and families against unnecessary exposures to potentially harmful pesticides and other lice shampoos. For more information on the Comb First policy contact your local public health nurse, your child's school nurse or visit www.headlice.org!