


Management and Treatment

Head lice infestations have been occurring for thousands of years, and although numerous efforts have been tried to prevent them from occurring, nothing has proven to be 100 percent successful. However, when they do occur, head lice infestations can be managed.

Management activities include:

- Education in treatment and prevention (See *“Quick Guide for Managing Head Lice”*)
- Inspecting, treating, and screening the hair and scalp
- Using the proper pediculicidal product (substances used to treat lice)
- Cleaning personal items and environment (See *“Cleaning of Personal Items and Environment”*)
- Repeat treatment with pediculicidal product 

Treatment should be considered only if lice or viable eggs are observed. Once a head lice infestation is determined, there are several treatment options to choose from. These methods include:

- Treatment with pediculicides (See *“Treatment with Pediculicides”*)
- Manual removal (See *“Manual Removal”*)
- Alternative or natural methods (See *“Alternative or Natural Methods”*)

What Families Can Do About Head Lice

Focus on solution, not on blame – Head lice can be picked up at sleepovers, camp, home, and other places where children share close quarters and come into close contact with someone who already has lice. Check children’s hair regularly and especially before and after he/she attends a sleepover or other similar activity.

Stay calm – Anxiety and guilt can be common reactions to the news that your child has head lice. Be assured that personal hygiene or cleanliness has nothing to do with a child getting lice. The fact is, while lice may be upsetting and a nuisance, they do not spread disease.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Responsibility

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) have the ultimate responsibility for their children. This includes:

- Becoming educated about head lice.
 - Valuable information is located at www.wyandotte.org ➤ **Parents and Community** ➤ **Helpful Links**, or contact the school office, primary care provider or pharmacist.
- Performing regular checks on all individuals in the home.
 - This includes anyone that has come in close contact with the individual with head lice.
- Notifying anyone that has come in close contact with the infested child.
 - Contact the child’s school office.
- Treating a child with head lice as soon as possible and committing to



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- following through until there are no longer signs of an infestation.
 - Remove nits daily from the hair, especially nits that are at least ¼ inch from the scalp.
 - Clean items that have been in contact with the head of the person with the infestation. (See “*Cleaning of Personal Items and Environment*”)
- Teaching children how to minimize the chance of getting head lice by avoiding head-to-head contact, not sharing hats, combs, brushes, and hair accessories.

The infographic consists of five grey rectangular text boxes arranged in a staggered, descending pattern from top-left to bottom-right. A small illustration of a head louse is positioned between the top and middle boxes.

- Head lice do not transmit disease, but can spread easily through close head-to-head contact.**
- An estimated 6-12 million infestations occur each year among U.S. children 3 to 11 years of age**
- Talk to your health care provider or pharmacist to learn about treatment options**
- Head lice often infest people with good hygiene**
- Head lice move by crawling; they cannot jump or fly**