

Pediculosis & Pediculosis Facts (Head Lice)

Your child has lice. Now what??

1. DON'T PANIC. Anyone can get head lice. Lice can be easily managed.
2. Check all family members.
3. Treat the infected person(s) with a medicated shampoo at the sink. (Rid, Nix or one of many other brands).
4. Remove all nits from hair. The shampoo will come with a special comb. This is very time consuming but is the only way to insure complete treatment. Nits that are not removed will hatch in 7-10 days causing re-infestation.
5. Check all infected heads daily for at least 10 days. Retreat if there are any signs of re-infestation.
6. Machine wash all clothes and bed linens in HOT water. Dry in a hot dryer.
7. Soak combs and brushes in HOT water for 5-10 minutes.
8. Items that cannot be washed should be dry cleaned or stored in a sealed plastic bag for 2 weeks.
9. Vacuum everywhere.
10. If you have questions, please contact your school nurse.

Pediculosis (Head Lice Facts)

Here are the facts.

1. Lice do not jump or fly. They are acquired from direct head to head contact.
2. Infestations are rarely spread by inanimate objects (books, chairs etc.) Lice cannot survive off the host for more than a day or two. A viable louse will not leave a healthy host.
3. Animals (dogs, cats, etc.) do not spread lice.
4. Nits (lice eggs) do not mean an active infection. Nits more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the scalp are not viable.
5. When a child is diagnosed with lice, they have probably been infested for a month or more.
6. Be careful with lice shampoos. They contain toxic chemicals and caregivers must follow the directions carefully.
7. School nurses remain the best trained screeners.

8. Personal hygiene, socio-economic group, boys or girls have nothing to do with lice infestation. Lice love everyone.

9. Head lice while annoying do not pose a health risk.

10. While it may be embarrassing, your child's school nurse and parents of playmates should be notified if your child is diagnosed with head lice. Parent cooperation will help protect all children even your own.