

**USD 273
BELOIT SCHOOL**

HEAD LICE INFORMATION

1. Head Lice are very small wingless insects that live on the human scalp and in the hair. They are more commonly found on young children than adults. They move by crawling; they cannot fly or jump like flies. Lice feed on blood in a manner similar to a mosquito. Household pets do not transmit lice.
2. Head lice may live away from a human host for 72 hours but cannot reproduce away from the human host. A typical infestation involves about 10 lice. An adult female may lay 3-5 nits (egg castings) per day which are glued strongly to the hair shafts. The nits will hatch out in 7-10days and mature in about 2-3weeks. Nits are laid very close to the scalp, and although they may be found throughout the hair most often they are located at the nape of the neck, behind the ears and the crown.
3. Head lice can cause minor problems such as itching and the possibility of bacterial skin infections secondary to intensive scratching. There is no evidence that head lice transmit other infectious diseases.
4. Head lice are transmitted almost exclusively by direct head-to-head contact or by sharing items such as combs, brushes, scarves, caps and other head gear. Bedding, furniture, stuffed animals, rugs and carpets also play a minor role in transmission.
5. Treatment for head lice infestation includes the use of a pediculocidal shampoo, such as Nix or RID. Whatever product is used, read instructions carefully and follow directions exactly. All lice killing products are pesticides and must be used with caution. All family members should be examined, but only those showing evidence of infestation should be treated. Treat them at the same time to prevent infestation from one family member to another.

The Kansas Department of Health and environment recommends this treatment:

Day 1: Apply pediculocidal shampoo followed by a thorough fine-tooth wet combing.

Day 2 – 6: Daily apply ordinary shampoo followed by cream rinse and a thorough fine-tooth wet combing.

Day 7: Apply pediculocidal shampoo followed by a thorough fine-tooth wet combing.

Days 8 – 14: Daily apply ordinary shampoo followed by cream rinse and a thorough fine-tooth wet combing.

6. Treatment is not complete until nits are removed. Nit removal can be accomplished with a special comb or by picking them out with the finger nails. Nits can be also be cut with small safety scissors.
7. Home environmental measures to control head lice include:
 - Launder (with hot water) all bed linens and clothing used by infested individuals on the day of their diagnosis.
 - Non-washables can be vacuumed or dry cleaned.
 - Rugs, upholstered furniture, mattresses and car seats can be vacuumed. The spraying of household items with pesticides is not recommended.
8. A head lice infestation is a mild health condition without serious health consequences for a child. Treatment should have a minimal disruptive effect on a child's education. USD 273 school policy is to treat by using pediculocidal shampoo followed by several thorough fine-tooth wet combings to remove nits. This is a prerequisite for returning to school. School health personnel will examine the student prior to returning to classroom.

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