

LICE - GENERAL PREVENTION AND DIRECTIVE STEPS

Head lice are very common in school-age children. They do not carry disease. They have nothing to do with the cleanliness of a house or parenting skills.

Always treat/remove any head lice or nits found on your child's head.

It is extremely important for you to check your child's head. If you find head lice, keep checking every 2 days until there are no head lice found for 10 consecutive days.

The school takes steps to control the spread of lice, including checking students' heads and sending home as needed.

The best way to prevent transmission:

- Teach children not to share combs, brushes, hair ornaments, hats, caps, scarves, headsets, or any other personal headgear.
- Do not try on other people's hats (even in department stores).
- Teach children to hang coats separately - placing hats and scarves inside coat/jacket sleeves.
- Clean or disinfect shared headgear (i.e., helmets) with Lysol® or rubbing alcohol before being used by others.
- Conduct regular head checks of your child.

If head lice are found on your child:

- Check others in the household for signs of head lice or nits. If found, complete remaining steps on all individuals.
- Remove nits from the head by combing. This is the most important lice control measure. Complete nit removal is time-consuming but is critical for successful treatment.
- Use an effective head lice treatment. Contact your child's doctor for recommendations.
- Remove all of the lice and nits from the environment by washing or vacuuming. There is no need to spray pesticides at home.
- Perform daily head checks and remove nits for 3 weeks until head lice are gone. Continue to check your child weekly.

If you have difficulties treating the head lice on your child, please contact the school nurse, local health department, or your child's physician.