



FACT SHEET: Head Lice

Head lice are treatable, they are a nuisance, they are not life-threatening and they are not an emergency. Infections usually occur outside of the school setting unintentionally. The peak time children acquire head lice is in the summer, related to sleepovers at camps, slumber parties, and vacationing, however, lice are present all year round.

Head lice infestation does not reflect cleanliness or social status, it is a common infection in all communities. In the US it is estimated 1 out of 5 students are infected with head lice in a classroom at any given time. The average time to diagnose head lice is weeks to months from the time of infection because head lice are so small, the symptoms of itching may not develop right away.

Head Lice can spread by:

- Head-to-head contact
- Contact with clothing, (hats, scarves, coats, etc.)
- Less commonly: sharing personal belonging such as combs, brushes, towels, couch, bedding, or pillows

*****Head lice do NOT fly, hop or jump*****

Please monitor your child for the following symptoms:

Tickling, feeling something moving in hair	Itching, caused by allergic reaction to the bites of head louse
Irritability and difficulty sleeping	Feeling unwell
Sores on head from scratching	

If your child develops any symptoms please keep them home and call your healthcare provider.

Prevention:

- Weekly "head checks" are recommended as part of a weekly routine
- Encourage your children to not have head-to-head contact with friends, or share personal items
- Report any itching to the head as soon as possible
- Placing hair in a ponytail, avoiding long hair, and some preventative shampoos/creams

Individuals at High Risk: Always consult with your healthcare provider with any questions or concerns. Anyone that is at higher risk, whose immune system is compromised, or who is pregnant should consult with their healthcare provider before treatment.

Return to School: Your child can return to school ideally after being treated.

Any questions please email/call your school nurse, (found on your home school website).

For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>