

Classroom Exposure to Head Lice

Dear Parents

Your child has been exposed to Pediculosis (head lice) in school. The eggs will hatch in approximately one week and become fully grown in eighteen days if left to develop. The adult female may live 20-30 days during which time she can produce as many as 100 eggs. Head lice are not an indicator of poor health habits or poor hygiene. Head lice are also physiologically incapable of either jumping or flying.

The child/children who are known to be infested have been notified and the parents advised to seek treatment and complete nit removal. In the meantime, you are advised to take the following precautions:

1. Thoroughly shampoo your child's hair using your regular shampoo.
2. Check the head for lice and nits. Nits are small, silvery eggs attached to the individual hairs. They resemble dandruff but unlike dandruff they are extremely difficult to remove.
3. If you locate any lice or nits you can buy lice shampoo without prescription and treat at home or be treated by a lice removal specialist. Please notify the school so other students can be checked.
4. You should routinely check your child's head at least once a week. Head lice can easily pass from one child to another.
5. Check the heads of all other children in family to be sure they are not infested.
6. After treatment:
 - a. Wash all clothing ,towels, and bed linen in very hot water 130 degrees
 - b. Dry clean all clothing and hats that are not washable
 - c. Vacuum all carpets and upholstered furniture and mattresses.
 - d. Any stuffed animals, blankets or fabric items child sleeps with must be laundered or tumbled in a dryer on high heat for 20 minutes

Sincerely,

Clinic Nurse