

Head Lice Protocol (Pediculosis)

According to the CDC, head lice are not known to transmit disease and therefore are not considered a health hazard. The first and most common symptom is itching, and may take anywhere from 4-6 weeks for the first symptoms to appear (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/gen_info/faqs.html, Accessed October 9, 2015).

- 1) Student(s) that present with symptoms of live lice will be checked by the school nurse and will remain in class until the end of the school day. The management of pediculosis should not disrupt the educational process (NASN, [nasn@nasn.org/](mailto:nasn@nasn.org) (Accessed October 9, 2015).
- 2) Student will be encouraged to avoid head to head contact with others.
- 3) The Parent/Guardian of the student with live lice will be contacted and notified of the need for treatment.
- 4) Student will return the following day.
- 5) When appropriate, screen other children who have had close head to head contact with the student with head lice such as household members. Classroom-wide or school-wide screening is not merited (NASN, January 2011, Anderson and McCarthy 2011).
- 6) Notice of head lice (Section 14, Subchapter A, CHAPTER 38, EDUCATION CODE, .Sec. 38.031)-Public Elementary school nurses or administration who determines or becomes aware that an enrolled student has lice shall provide written or electronic notice of that fact to: (1) the parent of the child with lice as soon as possible but not later than 48 hours after the above becomes aware of the fact. (2) the parent of each child assigned to the same classroom as the child with lice not later than the 5th school day after the date the above determines or becomes aware of the fact. Student affected by lice is never personally identified.
- 7) Parents will be encouraged to check their child's head regularly (American Academy of Pediatrics, www.aap.org/. Accessed October 9, 2015).

The following are steps that can be taken to help prevent and control the spread of head lice- (www.cdc.2017)

- Avoid head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact during play and other activities at home, school, and elsewhere (sports activities, playground, slumber parties, camp).
- Do not share clothing such as hats, scarves, coats, sports uniforms, hair ribbons, or barrettes.
- Do not share combs, brushes, or towels. Disinfest combs and brushes used by an infested person by soaking them in hot water (at least 130°F) for 5–10 minutes.
- Do not lie on beds, couches, pillows, carpets, or stuffed animals that have recently been in contact with an infested person.
- Machine wash and dry clothing, bed linens, and other items that an infested person wore or used during the 2 days before treatment using the hot water (130°F) laundry cycle and the high heat drying cycle. Clothing and items that are not washable can be dry-cleaned OR sealed in a plastic bag and stored for 2 weeks.
- Vacuum the floor and furniture, particularly where the infested person sat or lay. However, spending much time and money on housecleaning activities is not necessary to avoid reinfestation by lice or nits that may have fallen off the head or crawled onto furniture or clothing.
- Do not use fumigant sprays or fogs; they are not necessary to control head lice and can be toxic if inhaled or absorbed through the skin.