

HEAD LICE

If there is reason to suspect that head lice may be present in a classroom, inspections of students in that classroom will be undertaken. Students found to have an active case of head lice will be noted. The parents of those students, as well as the student(s) involved, will be notified at the end of the school day and will be given suggestions as to how to alleviate the problem. The informational pamphlet entitled “Head Lice 101: A Parent’s Guide” (*Exhibit 5141*) will be sent home to the parents. All students in the class where head lice was discovered will be given a bulletin to take home to parents stating that an active case of head lice was found in the classroom.

These students will be checked again on a daily basis until there is no further sign of active infestations of lice. If there is an indication of active head lice the student will not be admitted back into school until treatment has occurred. Should the head lice infestation continue to occur, it may be necessary to refer the student to the Public Health Service or a physician for further treatment.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses no longer endorse a “No Nits” policy in schools. (Nits are head lice eggs.)

Recommended process

- A. The Health Aide, or other designee in the middle schools and high schools, will examine the head of any child suspected of having a live lice infestation.
- B. Children returning to school after treatment for head lice will be examined by the Health Aide or other designee to verify absence of live lice prior to entering the classroom.
- C. The presence of nits does not indicate an active infestation. No evidence is found that the presence of head lice correlates with any disease process, or that outbreaks of lice resulted when allowing students with non-viable nits to remain in class (*Frankowski, Weiner, 2002*)¹.

¹ AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS: *Head Lice*;
Barbara L. Frankowski, MD, and Leonard B. Weiner, MD,
Committee on School Health, Committee on Infectious Diseases
Pediatrics 2002; 110:3 638-643

HEAD LICE (continued)

PROCEDURE:

A. Upon notification of a suspected case of head lice:

1. An active infestation will be determined by looking closely through the hair and scalp for live lice.
2. If live lice or any nits are found in the hair, the parent/guardian will be notified no later than the end of the school day via phone. The parent/guardian will be provided information related to detection and methods of eliminating head lice.
3. The student will remain in his/her class for the remainder of the school day.
4. If a student is found to have an active case of head lice a bulletin will be sent home with all students in the affected class to notify parents a case of head lice was found in the class. A full class inspection is at the discretion of the Health Aide or other designee.

B. Upon student's return to school:

1. At the beginning of the school day, examine student's hair for presence of lice. Student is required to be free of live lice to return to school. If live crawling lice are found upon return to school, the parent/guardian should be notified that the student needs to be picked up and cannot return to school until treatment is started.
2. The student will be allowed to remain in school if there is no presence of live crawling lice. Nits only are allowable.
3. Parent/guardian will be encouraged to continue "Nit Picking" every night in addition to the initial treatment until nits are gone.
4. The Health Aide or other designee will re-inspect the student's hair and scalp daily after initial active infestation is found until all nits are gone or up to 10 days. If during any re-inspection live lice are found, the parent will be notified and the active infestation process will start over.

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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What are Head Lice? Lice?



Figure 1: Head Louse
Pediculus Capitus

Head lice are small, wingless parasitic insects. They are typically 1/6 -1/8 inches long, brownish in color with darker margins. The claws on the end of each of their legs are well adapted to grasping a hair strand.

Female head lice glue their grayish-white to brown eggs (nits) securely to hair shafts.

The eggs are difficult to remove without a special "nit-comb". The nits are generally near the scalp, but they may be found anywhere on the hair shaft.

A child cannot "catch nits".
Nits (lice eggs) can only be laid by live lice.

Head Lice Treatments and Where to Find them

Island Pharmacy

RID Kit – pesticide
Separate metal combs approved by
Public Health

Safeway Pharmacy

RID shampoo
NIX – pesticide
LicemD – pesticide free, advertises
to kill lice and eggs.
Pronto spray

Walmart Pharmacy

RID Kit and shampoo only
NIX
Equate kit and shampoo only
–pesticidal
Lice Free Gel
LicemD
QuitNits – homeopathic, all natural

Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District

Head Lice 101: A Parent's Guide



*Share a toy, share a slide,
share the feelings deep inside.
But never share a hat or comb,
or lice could make your head
their home!*

HEAD LICE 101: THE BASICS

- ◆ **DO NOT PANIC!** Head lice are not an emergency and, in most cases, do not pose any health risk. However, misuse of pesticides and use of unlabeled treatments (ex: kerosene) can pose a health risk.
 - ◆ Head lice **CANNOT** live off a human host for more than 24-48 hours. Head lice **CANNOT** live on pets. Head lice **CANNOT** reproduce in carpets, furniture, or other household furnishings.
 - ◆ **PESTICIDE SPRAYS DO LITTLE OR NOTHING TO CONTROL LICE. NEVER** treat your home, car, furniture, beds, pillows, or clothing with pesticides (e.g. 'lice bombs,' flea bombs, sprays, etc.) in an attempt to control head lice. You will expose yourself and your family to unnecessary pesticide risk.
 - ◆ Head lice are very common among people of all socio-economic groups. More than 12 million people, mostly children and school personnel, get head lice per year.
 - ◆ Direct head-to-head contact with an infested person is the main way head lice are transmitted, but they may also be transmitted by sharing hats, scarves, headphones, combs, and other hair accessories.
 - ◆ If a lice shampoo is warranted, ask your doctor or pharmacist for specifics on the product and follow all label instructions exactly. Misapplications can be ineffective and dangerous.
- LICE CANNOT HOP, JUMP OR FLY,
BUT THEY CAN CRAWL RAPIDLY.

10 TIPS FOR Treatment

1. Use a medicine that your health care provider or pharmacist recommends. After treatment, removal of nits is necessary.
2. For nit removal, work in a well lit area or use a flashlight or hand lens.
3. Use a grooming comb or hairbrush to remove tangles. A hair detangle spray or other hair conditioner may aid in this process.
4. Divide the hair into sections and fasten off the hair that is not being worked on.
5. Use a lice comb to detect and remove lice and nits. Or manually remove by pinching the nit and pulling it off the hair shaft.
6. Go through hair sections from the scalp to the end of the hair. Nits are usually found close to the scalp.
7. Dip the comb in a cup of hot, soapy water or use tape to remove lice, nits, or debris from comb.
8. Move on to the next section until the entire scalp and all hair has been checked.
9. Screen the person every day for 10 days and regularly thereafter.
10. If additional nits (at least 3-5 per day) are discovered, another manual search is recommended.
11. Please be sure to notify the school nurse if you treat your child. Students must be checked by school nurse before returning to school after treatment.

**YOU CANNOT COMPLETELY CONTROL
HEAD LICE WITH LICE SHAMPOO ALONE.**

**YOU MUST COMBINE LICE SHAMPOO
TREATMENT WITH MANUAL REMOVAL.**



HOW TO AVOID A HAIR RAISING EXPERIENCE

- Watch for signs of head lice. Frequent head itching or complaints of itchy head/scalp are common signs. Red bite marks or scratch marks may be seen behind the ears, back of neck and scalp. Check your children every few days if head lice are reported at their school. **Lice are easier to eliminate if caught early.**
- Teach your children not to share hats, headgear, scarves, headphones, and grooming items (combs, hairbrushes, etc.) and to avoid direct head-to-head contact.
- To kill lice on bedding, clothes, etc., wash and dry them as you would ordinarily. **NEVER** add any pesticide. Vacuum materials that cannot be washed.
- If you are concerned about head lice on carpets or furniture, vacuum them thoroughly or wipe smooth surfaces with a damp cloth.
- Place items that cannot be washed or dried, such as stuffed animals, in a tightly sealed plastic trash bag for 10 days. **NEVER** spray items with a pesticide.
- To kill lice on brushes, combs, or hair accessories, wash them with hot, soapy water. **NEVER** spray them with a pesticide.
- Your child may be temporarily excluded from school, but this helps avoid widespread head lice outbreaks.

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION

The School Board recognizes that students sometimes may need to take prescribed medication during the school day in order to be able to attend school without jeopardizing their health. In such cases, when the district has received written statements from the student's physician and parent/guardian as required by law, designated personnel shall assist the student in taking the medication and be afforded appropriate liability protection.

Self-Administered Medication

A student may be permitted to carry medication that has been prescribed or ordered by a physician to stay on or with the student due to a pressing medical need.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

09.65.090 Civil liability for emergency aid