

Fact Sheet about Lice



What is Lice ?

Lice are parasitic insects that can be found on people's heads, and bodies. Lice infestations are spread most commonly by close person-to-person contact. Lice are most common among preschool- and elementary school-age children and their household members and caretakers. The most common way to get head lice are by head-to-head contact with a person who already has head lice. Such contact can be common among children during play at

- school,
- home, and
- elsewhere (e.g., sports activities, playgrounds, camp, and slumber parties).

Uncommonly, transmission may occur by:

- wearing clothing, such as hats, scarves, coats, sports uniforms, or hair ribbons worn by an infested person;
- using infested combs, brushes or towels; or

What are the signs and symptoms of head lice infestation?

- Tickling feeling of something moving in the hair.
- Itching, caused by an allergic reaction to the bites of the head louse.
- Irritability and difficulty sleeping; head lice are most active in the dark...
- Sores on the head caused by scratching. These sores can sometimes become infected with bacteria found on the person's skin.
- , or stuffed animal that has recently been in contact with an infested person.

What do head lice look like?

Head lice have three forms: the egg (also called a nit), the nymph, and the adult.



Nymph form. (CDC Photo)

Dear Parents,



It has come to our attention that there have been some recent cases of Lice in a few of our classrooms. So the Health team is asking parents to please check their children's hair. Please examine your child's head, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck, for nits and lice if your child exhibits symptoms (primarily itching) of a head lice infestation. If nits or lice are found, all household members should be examined for nits and lice every 2-3 days. Persons with live (crawling) lice or nits should be treated. To eliminate head lice successfully, it is very important that all treatment instructions and steps are carefully followed and completed. Dade County **"No-nits" policies require a child to be free of nits before they can return to school or a child-care facility.** If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at (305) 222-8150 at the health suite. After treatment is completed please bring your child to the office before returning him or her to class. Thank you for all of your assistance.



Lice prefer to stay in hair.

Facts and Tips to Remember

Lice cannot live without human contact for more than 48 hours.

Head lice are spread if two heads are together.

Lice cannot jump or fly.

Pets do not get head lice.

Head lice happen to anyone.

Several products are available OTC. Most require a second application within 7-10 days after first application.

Soak all Combs, brushes, pillow, blankets, and clothes in hot water. > 130 degrees.

Vacuum everything

Remember ALWAYS WEAR HAIR UP.