

LET'S TALK ABOUT LICE  
(Form 1)

The most common type of louse is the head louse, which lives on the scalp and hair, and occasionally on eyelashes. Nits resemble dandruff but are hard and fastened to the hair shaft, usually within 1" from the scalp. All nits must be removed by hand for effective control of head lice.

Nits are usually found behind the ears and around the back of the neck. Live lice can be seen crawling on the hair or scalp; however nits are more commonly found.

To Treat Lice:

1. Buy a medicated shampoo for lice.
2. Read and follow the directions on the shampoo label.
3. Remove nits from hair shaft by picking them off one by one.
4. Repeat shampoo according to the directions to kill any lice hatched or missed nits since applying the first treatment.
5. Treat ALL family members.

Care of Clothing and Home:

1. Soak combs and brushes in HOT soapy water of shampoo.
2. Treat clothing and articles in the home by washing in HOT soapy water or dry cleaning.
3. Non-washable items such as pillows and stuffed toys can be sealed in a plastic bag for 2 weeks.
4. Vacuum rugs, mattresses, and upholstered furniture. Car upholstery and carpet should also be vacuumed. The vacuum bag should be discarded.

Returning to School:

1. Remove all nits.
2. \*May return to school the next morning after and no later than 2 days after treatment with medicated shampoo.
3. Must be examined by school nurse, health aide, family physician, or health department
4. Return signed *Form 3* to school nurse, health aide, or designated school personnel (if no nurse or aide is available)

\*Students who do not return to school within two days may be referred to the attendance officer or the appropriate agency.

[Approval date: March 18, 1998]

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