

Your child may have been exposed to:

Head Lice

Anyone can get head lice. Head lice are very small brownish-colored insects that live on the head. They are less than 1/8" long, about this size [--]. They lay eggs (nits) close to the scalp. The eggs are tiny (size of the eye of a small needle) and gray or white in color.

If you think your child has Head Lice:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- Treat your child for head lice and check child's head and remove nits daily. **It takes at least 2 weeks to get rid of lice.**

If all nits within ½" of the scalp are not removed, some may hatch and your child will be infested again.

- Check everyone in the house for head lice. Treat only household members with head lice, and treat them all at once.
- **Need to stay home?**

Childcare and School:

Yes, until first treatment is completed **and** no live lice are seen. Nits are NOT considered live lice.

Symptoms

Itching of the head and neck. Look for: 1) crawling lice in the hair, usually there aren't very many; 2) eggs (nits) glued to the hair, often found behind the ears and at the back of the neck; and 3) scratch marks on the head or back of the neck at the hairline.

If your child is infested with lice it will take 7 to 10 days from when the eggs are laid until they hatch.

Spread

- By head-to-head contact. Check your child for lice often.

Lice do not jump or fly; they crawl and can fall off the head. Head lice do not live longer than 48 hours off the head. They only lay their eggs while on the head. The eggs do not hatch if they fall off the head. Lice do not spread to or from pets.

Contagious Period

Until treated with a lice killing product.

Call your Healthcare Provider

- ◆ Call your healthcare provider or pharmacy for advice. Recommended treatment includes using either a prescription or store-bought lice killing product.
- ◆ Follow the product directions carefully. With certain products a second treatment is recommended 7 to 10 days later. Lice treatment products are not 100% effective in killing lice, especially nits.
- ◆ **Removing the nits (nitpicking) is a very important part of the treatment for controlling head lice.** The nits are glued onto the hair shaft as they are laid, and require effort to remove. To remove the nits, use a metal nit comb, cat flea comb, or your fingernails to slide eggs off the hair shafts, or use scissors to cut the hair shafts that have nits glued to them. **Continue checking the head and combing hair daily for 2 weeks.** If all nits within ½" of the scalp are not removed, some may hatch and your child will get head lice again.