

Lice Advice

This information was developed for parents/guardians to use as a guide in the management of children with head lice. The goal is to inform you of the Middleton-Cross Plains School District policy and the most effective home treatment plan to eliminate an active case and/or to prevent re-infestation. Contact the District Nurse, Joanne Schoohs with questions at 608-829-9056 or Public Health Madison and Dane County at 608-266-4821.

DISTRICT POLICY

LEGAL REF: WISCONSIN STATUTE 143.12 (1) & (6) Presence of lived head lice or eggs (before treatment) will constitute exclusion from school. Students will be readmitted when treatment is assured and live lice or eggs are not seen. (Sec. HSS 145.01, Wisconsin Administrative Code)

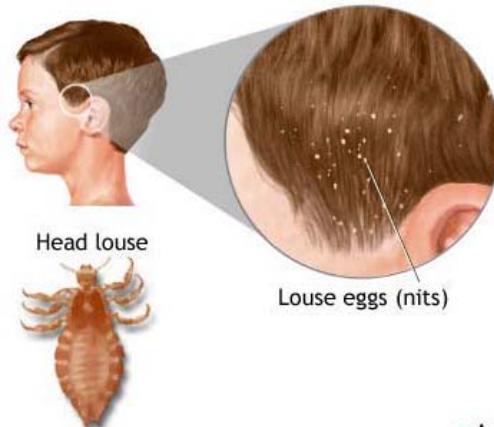
If nits or eggs are present in the hair 7-10 days after the initial treatment, another treatment is recommended, not required.

WHAT IS HEAD LICE?

Head lice are tiny, gray-brown, hairy insects that live in human hair on the scalp. The average life span of the louse is 30 days with new eggs hatching every 10 days. Lice hatch from small eggs, called nits that attach firmly to the hair shaft with a glue-like substance. The nits are white in color and are most often found behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. Live lice move by crawling, not flying or jumping. Lice can spread to other people who share the same living and sleeping quarters, hairbrushes, combs, or headgear. The primary symptom of lice infestation is scalp itching.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Home treatment guidelines are listed on the reverse side. This 3-STEP treatment plan is recommended for successful elimination and control. The main reason for treatment failure (and thus re-infestation of head lice) is the incomplete removal of lice eggs after lice-killing products are used. Students will be readmitted the next school day after the lice-killing treatment of choice has been completed. The student's hair will be inspected to ensure absence of live lice, and removal of remaining eggs will be expected within the 3 days after the original live louse detection period. It is important for parents to notify day care or places where your child regularly visits to prevent transmission to others. Also, check other family members occasionally for the presence of lice.



The main reason for treatment failure and re-infestation is the incomplete removal of nits and improper use of lice-killing products. Please follow manufacturer's guidelines carefully.

3 Step Treatment Plan

STEP 1: KILL THE LICE

Use an over-the-counter lice-killing shampoo (common brands are *NIX* and *RID*) and are available at your local drug or discount store. Most of these products contain 1% permethrin, which has proven to be very effective and often need to be applied to dry hair, as wet hair can dilute the chemicals. Follow the manufacturer's directions carefully. Often, a second treatment is recommended 7 to 10 days after the first treatment

HOME REMEDIES: These remedies involve "coating" your child's hair with thick or oily substances such as petroleum jelly, or olive oil and leaving it on the hair overnight (the child sleeps wearing a shower cap). The theory is that coating the hair with these substances will smother the lice. *These remedies have not been scientifically proven to work.* Do not apply any toxic or highly flammable substances such as gasoline or kerosene, or use products that are intended for use on animals.

STEP 2: REMOVE THE NITS

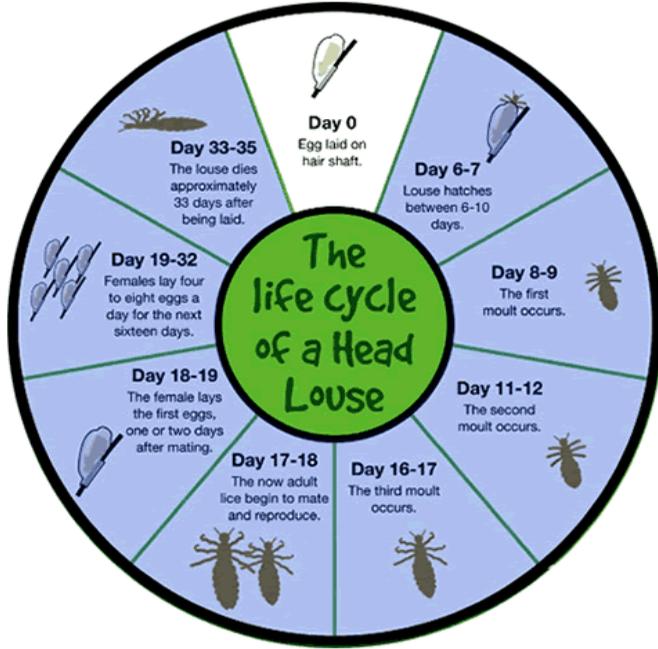
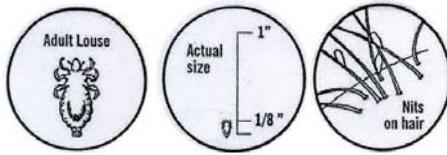
Nit (also referred to as eggs) removal is crucial to eradicating infestation regardless of the treatment used. Nits are grayish-white and can generally be found close to the scalp.

1. Manually remove nits using a nit comb under good lighting. Fine-toothed, METAL combs work best. Fingernails or safety scissors can be used to remove nits on individual hair strands that are strongly attached.
2. Divide hair into sections and fasten off the hair not being worked on.
3. Clean the comb with hot water and dry with a paper towel between sections. If a live louse is found, remove it with tweezers or seal it in a piece of scotch tape.
4. Combing out the nits often takes a great deal of time and patience. During this step you may want to give your child something to do, such as a book to read or watching a video.
5. Continue to check your child's head daily for two-three weeks and continue to be diligent removing nits.

STEP 3: ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

1. Wash your child's clothes, towels, hats, and bed linens in hot water and dry on high heat.
2. Soak combs, brushes, and hair bands in boiling hot water for one hour.
3. Vacuum thoroughly - pillows, furniture, carpeting, car seats, and bare mattresses before new bedding applied. Discard vacuum bag after cleaning.
4. Non-washable items (dolls, stuffed animals, etc.) should be sealed in a plastic bag for two weeks.
5. Do not spray pesticides in your home because they can expose your family to dangerous chemicals.

Internet Resources
www.aap.org
www.hsph.harvard.edu

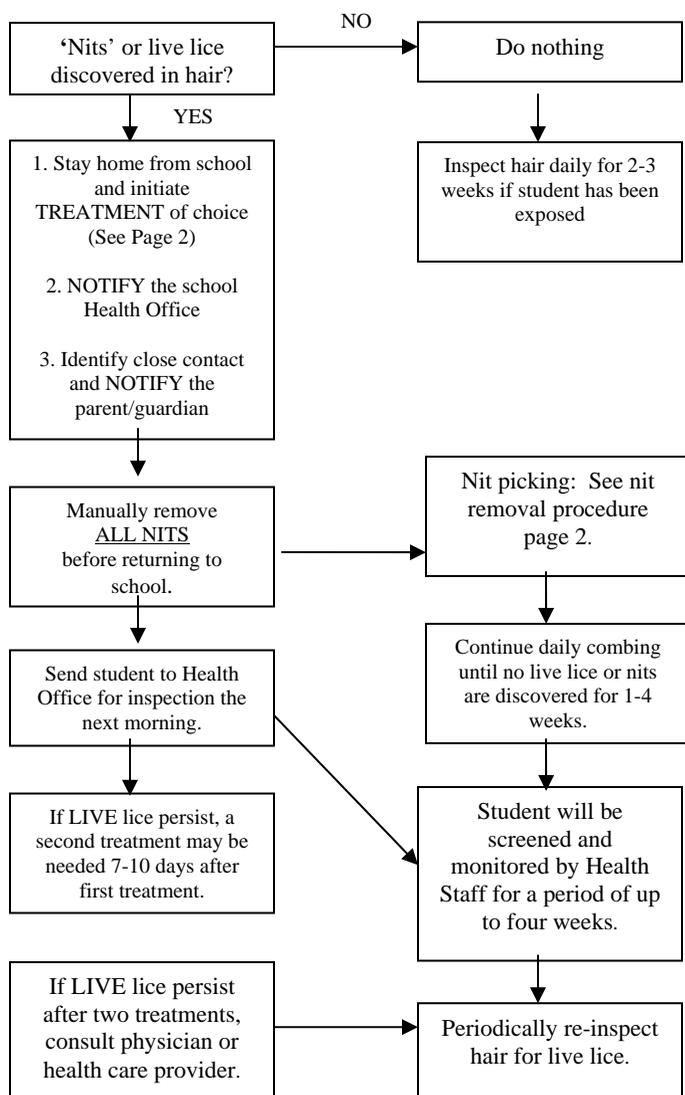


MYTHS

FACTS

The presence of head lice is a sign of poor personal hygiene.	Head lice prefer a clean scalp. Your age, sex, race or how much money you have, do not matter
Only children get head lice.	It is possible for adults to have head lice, but children are more susceptible due to close contact in daycare, preschools and schools.
If your head isn't itchy, you don't have lice.	Lice may be in your hair for weeks to months without making you itch. Less than 50% of people with lice will be scratching.
Long hair encourages lice infestation.	Lice are more interested in your scalp than hair, so cutting hair will not eradicate them.
Head lice can be "caught" from plants, pets and other animals.	Head lice can live on YOU, but can't live on plants, pets, or animals.
Head lice can jump and fly from one person to another.	Lice do not have wings. Lice can't jump but can run quickly from one head to another "whenever or wherever heads meet".
An itchy scalp following treatment is a sign of treatment failure.	Your scalp may be itchy for up to 10 days after successful treatment. If your head is itchy past 10 days, it may be a sign that lice are still present.
Head lice cause disease. An outbreak of head lice is a public health emergency.	Lice are a nuisance but do not carry germs or spread disease.

COORDINATED APPROACH TO LICE MANAGEMENT AT HOME & SCHOOL



Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District

7106 South Ave. Middleton, WI 53562

MHS 608-829-9687 KMS 608-829-9537 GCMS 608-829-9427

NS 608-829-9157 EL 608-829-9107 ST 608-829-9240

SR 608-829-9347 PK 608-829-9294 WM 608-829-9363