

## Information for Parents and Caregivers

### What is Lice?

Lice is a parasite that infects the hair and scalp of humans. Children are infected most commonly and it effects all socioeconomic backgrounds.

### Symptoms of Lice

- Head itching
- Lice and nits can be visible in the hair and scalp

### Is Lice Contagious? What is its Duration?

Lice spreads by close prolonged head-to-head contact.

### Treatment & Symptom Management

Treatment involves careful application of a topical pediculicide to the entire scalp and leaving on for the instructed time. Often this is followed by combing carefully through the hair with a special comb. The hair should not be washed with shampoo for 24-48 hours after this treatment. Depending on the product a second treatment is usually recommended on day 9 to 10 as this allows capture of hatched eggs. There is known drug resistance, so some children may require oral medication.

Check all household member's for lice. Also recommend washing clothes, towels, hats, bed linens in hot water and dry on high heat. Items that can not be washed, such as stuffed animals, should be sealed in a plastic bag for 2 weeks.

### Prevention

To be prevent lice avoid head-to head contact, sharing clothing, hats, combs, hair accessories.

### When Can a Sick Child Return to Day Care, School, and other Social Settings?

A child with lice should be excluded from social settings until the first treatment is complete.



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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Head Lice, <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>

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