

Evidence of head lice has been confirmed at Collegium. Lice are highly contagious and spread rapidly if treatment is not begun immediately. Anyone can get lice; it has nothing to do with being "clean or dirty." "Nits", eggs, can live on discarded hair for 10 days. Lice can survive for about 8 hours between feedings and can do so off a body.

TREATMENT MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 24 HOURS:

- Check the entire family for evidence of lice. You should look for tiny white "nits" (eggs) that attach themselves to the hair shaft. (They are most easily seen at the base of the neck, around the ears, and at the top of the head. The "nits" look like dandruff flakes, but will be difficult to remove from the hair shaft.
- Obtain medication from your Health Care Provider/pharmacy and follow the directions carefully. Every family member on which "nits" are found must use the medication. Do not wash hair for several days, which eliminates the residual effects of treatment. It is also recommend that household members all receive treatment at the same time. Before treatment, please check with your Health Care Provider especially for children under the age of two and/or pregnant/nursing women.
- The treatment must be repeated in 7-10 days to destroy any new eggs not destroyed in the first treatment.
- Bedding, clothing, stuffed animals should be washed in hot, sudsy water and dried in the hot dryer for 30-40 minutes (not fluffed). Place non-washable clothing in plastic bags and send to the dry cleaners. (The dry cleaner must be informed of the problem). Non-washable clothing may also be treated by placing in plastic bags in the hot sun for 72 hours or by sealing and isolating for 30 days.
- Spray upholstered areas i.e. furniture, carpets, car seats, etc. with a Pediculicide spray or 2% Lysol solution. Vacuum your furniture, carpets, and car seats thoroughly. Spray Pediculicide up vacuum hose before disposing of the vacuum bag in a sealed plastic bag.
- Soak brushes, combs, hair products and accessories i.e. berets, scrunchies in the treatment solution. Spray bike helmets, book bags, etc. Do not allow clothing, combs, towels, and bedding to be shared with family members or friends.
- It is not recommended that household pets be treated.
- After using the medicated shampoo, remove all "nits" with a special comb or by running a fingernail down each hair shaft. Dispose of the "nits" in paper or plastic.
- Check heads of household members for 10 days after finding last nit/louse.

PREVENTION MUST BE PROMOTED BY CONTINUAL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, WHICH INCLUDES ROUTINE HEAD CHECKING AT HOME!!

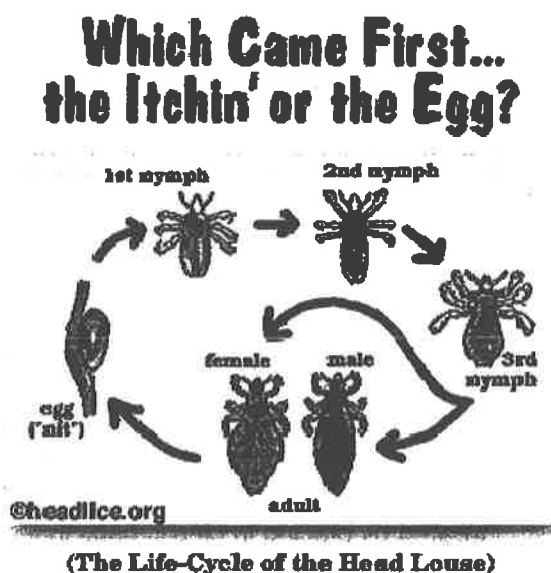
- Your child may return to school after the first medicated treatment, as long as you provide proof of treatment and the child is louse free. This may include the label from the shampoo, bottle of medication used, etc. and/or a Health Care Provider's note stating that treatment has been completed.
- The school nurse will check your child's head when he / she returns to school.
- The complete treatment must be repeated in 7-10 days. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 610-903-1300 ext 9607.

Thank you for your help,
Karen Wilkins, RN

Lousology 101

Images & Biology of Head Lice

- Nits (the eggs of the head louse) are small yellowish-white, oval-shaped eggs that are "to the side of a hair shaft glued" at an angle
- Nits must be laid by live lice. You cannot "catch nits."
- Once laid, it takes 7-10 days for a nit to hatch, and another 7-10 days for the female to mature and begin laying her own eggs.
- Head lice are clear in color when hatched, then quickly develop a reddish-brown color after feeding.
- Head lice are about the size of sesame seeds.
- Head lice have six legs equipped with claws to grasp the hair.
- Head lice are crawling insects. They cannot hop, jump, or fly.
- Head lice do not thrive on pets.
- Head lice are small, wingless insects which feed on human blood. They need human blood in order to survive.
- Head lice live for approximately 30 days on a host and a female louse may lay up to 100 nits (eggs).
- Head lice off of their human hosts will starve. The NPA suggests that, in most cases, a head louse will not survive for more than 24 hours off of its human host.



[More About Lice from Micrographia.com](http://Micrographia.com)

The Louse - An Account of the Lice Which Infest Man, Their Medical Importance and Control

By Patrick A. Buxton, C.M.G., F.R.S. (technical but informative for those doing research)