

Head Lice
PTA Presentation

RISD Health Services

PEDICULOSIS

- Pediculosis is an infestation of head lice.
- Has been spreading from one person to another for at least as long as recorded history.
- Commonly used words such as *lousy*, *cooties*, and *nit-picky* originate from terms used to describe head lice and its effect on humans.
- Head lice are NOT a disease.

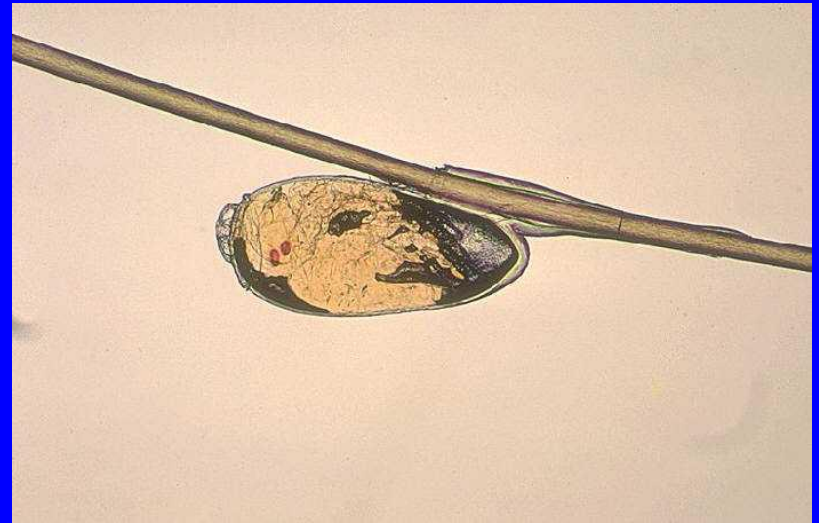
HEAD LICE

- Crawl - they do not jump or fly (wingless)
- Grayish-brown (if engorged w/ blood may become reddish)
- Usually found around nape of neck, behind the ears, and or the crown of the head



NITS

- Brown to grayish-white tear-drop shaped
- Hatch in 5 to 10 days with new lice reaching maturity in about 2 weeks
- Nits do NOT flake off. They are attached to the hair w/ a cement-like substance.



NITS

- Nits less than a 1/4 inch from the scalp indicate the presence an active head lice infestation
- Nits farther than 1/4 inch have:
 - hatched
 - infertile and most likely will not hatch



Head lice nits or eggs

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Itching (may not always be present)
- Nits which are brown to grayish white
- Live lice
 - an adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed (1/8 inch long)
 - can be difficult to locate because they move quickly and do not like bright light

TRANSMISSION OF HEAD LICE

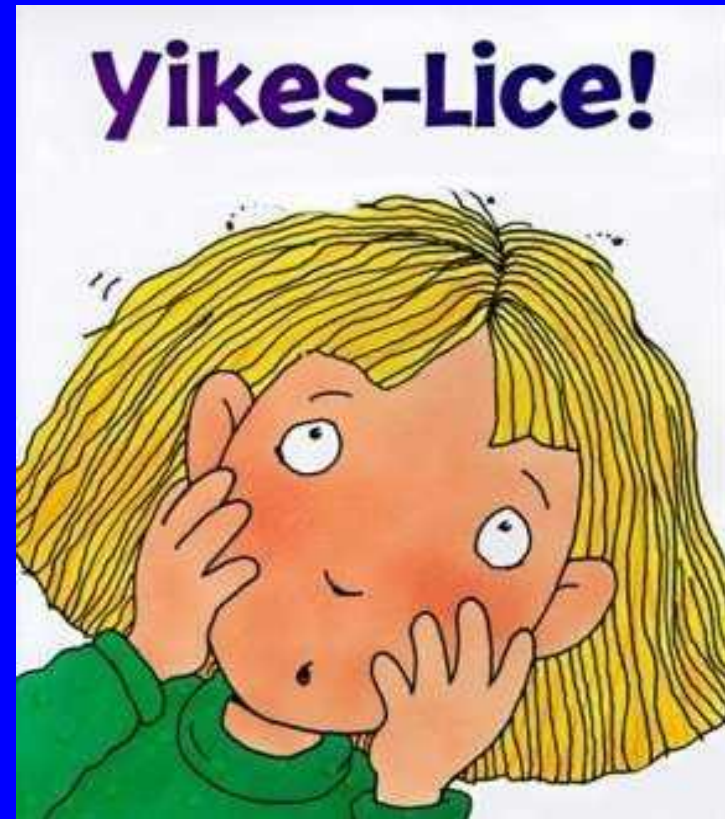
- From close personal contact with a person w/ a lice infestation
- Sharing combs, brushes, hair accessories, caps, hats, helmets, scarves, coats, etc.
- Dress-up parties, sleepovers, visiting relatives/friends and other extracurricular activities may play a part in the spread

WHAT A PARENT CAN DO

- Teach your child not to share personal items
- Check your child periodically for head lice.
- Check and treat all family members affected.
- Inform the school nurse if you are treating your child for head lice.
- Treat your home by following instructions given to you by your school nurse, physician, and or pharmacist.

WHAT A PARENT CAN DO

- Inform the day care (or other extra curricular groups) provider.
- Inform other family members so they can be treated if necessary.



TREATMENT

- Check family members for lice and treat if necessary.
- Medicated shampoo will not prevent an infestation so do not use it as a preventative measure.
- Medicated shampoo does not kill all nits.

TREATMENT

- Lice killing shampoos
 - Make sure you follow the instructions on the package.(For example : place on dry hair).
 - Shampoos do not kill all the nits.
 - Wash hair in sink to avoid getting medicated shampoo on entire body.

TREATMENT

- Remove nits.
 - Purchase a metal comb to remove nits.
 - Work under good light
 - Use tissue to remove nits from comb between each section of hair.
 - All nits may not come out, so re-inspect hair and remove remaining nits by hand.



TREATING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Treat the environment.
 - Vacuum the entire house and upholstered furniture. Dispose of vacuum cleaner bag.
 - Wash all personal items in hot water, or dry 30 minutes on high heat .(clothing, towel, bed linens, scrunchies, etc.)
 - Store other exposed items in plastic bags for 2 weeks (pillows, stuffed animals)
 - Disinfect combs, brushes, hair clips, etc. by soaking in hot water (140 °F. for 10 minutes).
 - Repeat the cleaning after each treatment

RE-TREATING

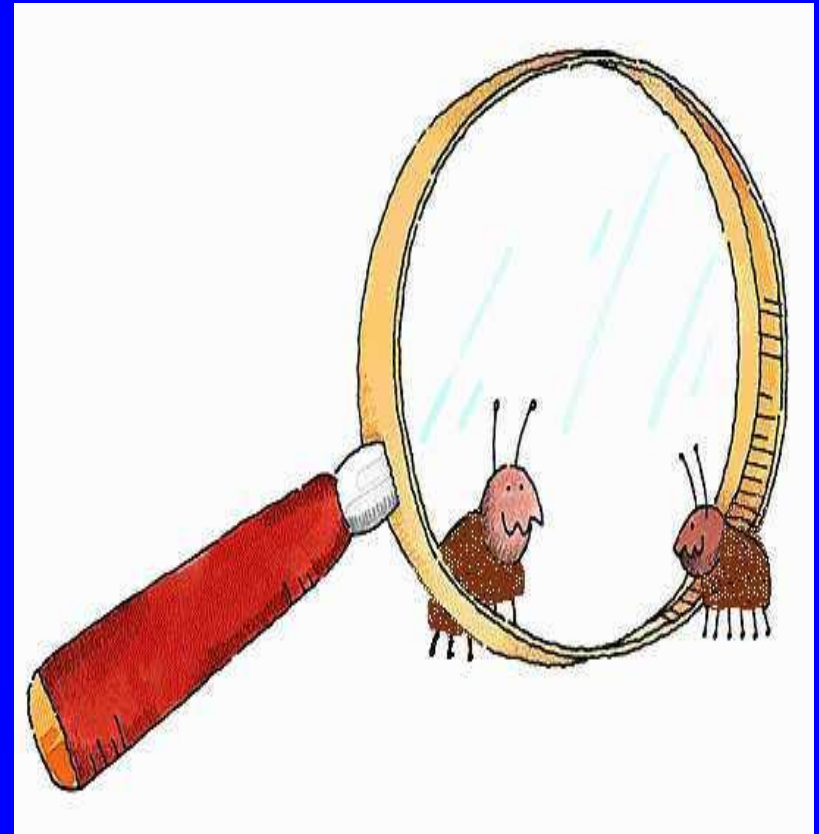
- Most lice shampoos require a 2nd treatment 7 -10 days later. Check the box for directions.
- Reclean environment.
- Monitor.
- Notify school nurse of 2nd treatment.

School Requirements

- If lice are found in a student's hair, student will be sent home.
 - If one student has lice in a class, the entire class will be checked.
- Hair needs to be treated with the medicated shampoo.
- Empty shampoo bottle and/or box must be returned to school nurse upon return to school.
- Student must also have the signed form upon return to school.

School Requirements

- School nurse will recheck student's hair. If lice are found again, student will be sent home.
- 7-10 days past the initial treatment, student must be retreated. Bring 2nd empty box/bottle and form to school nurse.



THINK PREVENTION!

- Talk to your children about head lice.
- Notify appropriate people if there is an infestation of head lice to prevent its spread.
 - Daycare, Scouts, close friends, cousins, school nurse
- Discuss ways your child can prevent getting head lice
 - Avoid sharing combs/brushes, hats, coats.