

Pediculosis, the medical term for lice, has become an unfortunate yet predictable part of raising children today. **What are lice?** Head lice are little human parasites that feed on blood and move easily from one person to another.

The **NPA (National Pediculosis Association)** urges communities to be informed and prepared before lice outbreaks occur.

1. Know how to accurately identify head lice and their eggs (nits) in advance of outbreaks. Those who make it part of routine grooming can take control of head lice rather than the other way around.
2. Strive to be first to detect lice and eggs in your child's hair. This is the way to avoid the dreaded "Your child has lice" phone call from school. While certainly important and helpful to be notified, it can be uncomfortable for a parent to learn that someone else noticed their child had bugs before they did.
3. Screen regularly with a quality lice and nit removal comb. Remember to check yourself and all members of your family. Quality combs can detect what you can miss with a visual examination. Be aware that lice combs can vary greatly in helpfulness. So choose carefully.
4. **COMBFIRST!** NPA developed and recommends the LiceMeister® comb. It's the gold standard medical device for lice and nit removal known around the world. Proceeds from the LiceMeister® comb allow the NPA to be self-sustaining and accomplish its mission.
5. There's never a need to miss school when parents are first to identify and thoroughly remove head lice and nits early when there are fewer of them.

Source: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/NPA/backtoschool/prweb11053375.htm>

NOTE: SHCS follows a "nit-free" policy for re-admittance to school. "Nit-free" means the child is to be free of nits and lice on their head. The child is required to be checked by school personnel before returning to class.
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Frequently Asked Questions

How are head lice spread?

Head lice can be spread whenever there is direct contact of the head or hair with an infested individual. Lice can also be spread through the sharing of personal articles like hats, towels, brushes, helmets, hair ties, etc. There is also a possibility of spreading head lice via a pillow, headrest or similar items. Head lice do not jump or fly and generally cannot survive longer than 24 hours off the host.

Do head lice jump?

Head lice do not have hind legs to hop or jump. They also do not have wings and cannot fly.

How do you treat a home or school for lice?

Homes or schools don't get head lice – people do. Head lice are human parasites and require human blood to survive. Vacuuming is the safest and best way to remove lice or fallen hairs with attached nits from upholstered furniture, rugs, stuffed animals or car seats – wherever someone with head lice may have rested their head. Pesticidal sprays are unwarranted and may pose personal and environmental hazards. Vacuum and save your time and energy for what benefits you the most – thorough nit removal.

Where do head lice come from?

Head lice do not come out of the air or from the ground. They are human parasites and have probably been here since the beginning of time. Desiccated (dried up) head lice and their eggs (nits) have been found on the hair and scalps of Egyptian mummies.

Source: <http://www.headlice.org>,
<http://www.headlice.org/downloads/faqprint.pdf>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

The Lice Place • <http://theliceplace.com/>

4007 Bellaire Blvd., Suite GG

Houston, TX 77025

713-667-5423 • RN@theliceplace.com

M-F 9am – 5pm

Sat 9am – 2pm

Professional lice and nit removal services including individual and family inspection to confirm head lice infestation.