

LICE INFORMATION

Lice do not jump from student to student – there must be head to head contact. It is unlikely that lice will spread through hats, combs, clothing etc. but it is possible. Lice die after 1-3 days off the head. The nits (eggs) that are closest to the scalp are more likely to contain lice that can hatch than the ones farther away because they need warmth to survive.

In order to effectively treat lice the following needs to occur...

1. The live lice need to be killed or removed from the hair.
2. The nits (eggs) that can hatch new lice need to be killed or removed.

The current over the counter treatments (RID, NIX) do not seem to be effective at treating lice in our students. These treatments are supposed to kill all live lice and sometimes nits (eggs) as well. Students often come back to school the next day with live lice. At times, it kills the live lice but not all the nits (eggs) are killed/removed so parents/guardians then think their child has “caught it again” in a month or so... when they never got rid of it in the first place.

It is very important to COMB daily with a progression to every other day, every three days etc. for about 6 weeks to assure that the life cycle of lice is broken. There are also prescription treatments that you can obtain from a physician, however these products are not covered by many insurances and are likely pricey.

If you have any questions/concerns or if your child has lice (or has had recently) please contact me.

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