

Controlling Head Lice

Head lice are a recurring problem among school children. It is not a sign of unclean people or homes. Lice live only on people's scalp and hair. The eggs, or nits, attach to hair near the scalp. They hatch in 6-10 days and live by biting the scalp. Lice do not fly or jump but they crawl very fast. Lice spread from person to person directly or from shared personal items, such as combs, brushes, head gear, clothing, bedding or towels. Until a person with lice is treated, they can transmit lice to others.

Please check your son/daughter's hair for lice or nits. Nits appear as tiny, pearl-gray oval specks that are attached to the hair near the scalp. They are seen at the back of the head, behind the ears, and at the top of the head. The nits will be difficult to remove from the hair shaft.

If you discover lice in the hair, treatment with a medicated shampoo for removal of lice and nits must be done. Comb hair with a fine toothed comb to remove lice and the nits after shampooing. Be sure to remove all nits to prevent re-infestation. All bedding and clothing in the home should be washed. Anything that cannot be washed, such as stuffed animals, should be placed in plastic bags for 10 days. Replace combs and brushes with new ones. The first treatment should be done as soon as possible and before the student returns to school. In 7 days a second treatment is needed. All those living in the home, should be checked for lice and nits and treated if nits are seen.

You can buy Nix/Rid at local pharmacies and do not need a prescription. This is the medicated shampoo for lice and nits. Follow the directions on the bottle for proper usage. There are other medicated shampoos as well.

Continue to check your son/daughter's hair regularly for any lice or nits.

You can call the school nurse at your student's school if you have questions.



The mission of PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT is to prepare each student to become a lifelong learner, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society.