



Communicable Disease Prevention and Control
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EXPOSURE NOTICE: HEAD LICE

Date Issued: _____

Dear Parent, Legal Guardian, or Staff,

Students and staff may have been recently exposed to **head lice**. We are providing the information below so you know what steps you can take to protect yourself and others. This information does not replace talking with your doctor if you become sick. ***If you or your child have symptoms, please seek diagnosis and treatment from a healthcare provider as soon as possible.***

HEAD LICE: Tiny, tan-colored insects (about the size of a sesame seed) that feed on blood from the scalp. Lice is most common in young children and their household members. Having lice is uncomfortable, but does not cause serious disease.

What are the symptoms? A tickling feeling of something moving in the hair. Itching of the scalp and/or neck. This may lead to irritability and difficulty sleeping. Sores on the head can be caused by scratching and can become infected with bacteria.

How is it spread? Head-to-head contact with the hair of a person with lice. Head lice move by crawling; they cannot hop or fly. Sharing combs, brushes, hats, blankets, or sheets can also spread head lice. The insects can get on beds, couches, carpets, or stuffed animals that have been in contact with someone with lice. Dogs, cats, and other pets do not spread head lice.

When do symptoms start? Can be immediate and up to 4-6 weeks after exposure.

Do staff or children need to stay home if symptoms develop? Yes. However, your child may stay until the end of the program or school day.

When can staff or children go back to work, school, or childcare? The child or staff member can return after treatment is completed. Treatment generally involves a one-time application of a medication (over-the-counter or prescription). In some cases, retreatment may be required if lice are still active after 8-12 hours.

For additional treatment information visit [cdc.gov/lice/treatment](https://www.cdc.gov/lice/treatment).

For more information about head lice, visit [cdc.gov/lice/about/head-lice.html](https://www.cdc.gov/lice/about/head-lice.html).