

***HEAD LICE--EDUCATION AND TREATMENT***

Once head lice have been detected, parents and guardians need to learn that treatment with a head lice medication is not sufficient to control the infestation. These rules need to be followed:

- A. Both the infested individual and their personal articles (caps, combs, brushes, towels, bedding, etc.) should be thoroughly cleaned with hot water and soap when possible.
- B. Machine wash all washable clothing and bed linens that have been in contact with the infested individual during the last 48 hours.
- C. Personal articles that cannot be washed may be dry-cleaned or placed in a plastic bag and sealed for a period of ten (10) days.
- D. Soak combs and brushes for an hour in a 2% Lysol solution, or put them in a pan of water on the stove and heat to 125 degrees for five to ten minutes. Caution: heating may damage the comb or brush.
- E. Cleaning of the house and other rooms inhabited by infested persons should be limited to thorough vacuuming. The effectiveness of pediculicidal sprays has not been proven. Fumigation of the home is not recommended.
- F. Apply a pediculicide (medicated shampoo according to package directions) to the hair of the infested individual.
- G. Comb the hair thoroughly with a fine-toothed comb to remove all dead lice and nits. To make combing easier, it may be helpful to apply a creme rinse or one-half vinegar/one-half water solution after shampooing.
- H. Parents should check every day during this time period because the shampoo doesn't kill nits.
- I. Have the person put on clean clothing after treatment.
- J. Repeat the treatment in seven to ten days to kill newly hatched lice.
- K. All family members or other close contacts must be examined for the presence of lice and active nits and treated, if indicated, at the same time as the affected individual.