

Managing Head Lice

Recommended web site: www.tdh.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/pdf/liceguid.pdf

Pampa ISD follows the Texas Department of Health Recommended Guidelines for the Management of Pediculosis in School Settings.

Facts:

- Lice that live on people do not live on cats/dogs/horses/ or other animals.
Lice live approximately three to four weeks.
- Once a louse is removed from the human host, it starves to death in one to three days.
- A female louse lays between 50 and 150 eggs during her normal thirty day life span.

Transmission...

is by head to head contact, sharing personal items, or coats and backpacks piled together. Lice do not jump, fly, or willingly leave their host. Sitting in a classroom with a student infested with lice does not make an individual likely to get lice.

Treatment... is directed toward:

1. Killing the bugs and the eggs.
2. Removing all eggs.
3. Preventing further infestation.

Killing the bugs and eggs is managed by the use of over the counter pesticides , physician prescribed pesticides, or non-toxic methods. The pesticides must be done strictly according to directions in order to minimize impact on the child. The non-toxic methods can be used as frequently as desired. Removing the eggs is essential because the lice products don't always kill the eggs. They hatch and quickly develop a whole new infestation.

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Prevention... is a three-step process:

1. Clean child's room... place bedding, coats, backpacks, and stuffed animals in hot dryer for several cycles. Clean combs and brushes. Vacuum cloth furniture and vehicle seats.
2. Educate child on avoiding close contact and sharing of personal items with other children.
3. Use repellent product in every day shampoo such as a few drops of orange oil to make the child's head less attractive to lice.