

### **Head Lice Information for Parents from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

Head lice are not known to transmit any disease, and therefore are not considered a health hazard.

Itching is the most common symptom of head lice infestation and is caused by an allergic reaction to lice bites. It may take 4–6 weeks for itching to appear the first time a person has head lice.

You should examine your child's head, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck, for lice if your child exhibits symptoms of a head lice infestation. If lice or lice eggs are found, all household members should be examined for lice and eggs every 2–3 days. Persons with live (crawling) lice or eggs within ¼ inch or less of the scalp should be treated.

Other symptoms may include:

- a tickling feeling or a sensation of something moving in the hair;
- irritability and sleeplessness; and
- sores on the head caused by scratching.

To eliminate head lice successfully, it is very important that all treatment instructions and steps be carefully followed and completed.

Products to treat lice are available both over-the-counter and by prescription. You should contact your doctor, pharmacist, or health department for additional information about which product they recommend.

Children diagnosed with live head lice should be treated, and can return to class once the student has no more signs of crawling lice and lice eggs.