

Possible head lice exposure has recently been reported in your child's classroom.

WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR

Head lice are gray, brown, or white and are so small they are difficult to see. Each female lays many eggs a day. The eggs are laid very close to the scalp on the hair shaft (usually within a fourth of an inch from the scalp). Eggs hatch within a week, the lice crawl onto you. Each

HEAD LICE CHECK LIST:

1. Identify lice.
2. Treat lice in all family members.
3. Treat combs and brushes.
4. Wash clothing and bed linens.
5. Notify your child's playmates.
6. Vacuum carpeting and furniture.
7. Recheck head in 8-10 days and RETREAT if any evidence of lice.

A second treatment is recommended 8-10 days after first treatment to kill newly hatched lice. The other alternative would be to remove all nits, but such attempts are often not 100% successful. Removing nits is difficult since they are securely cemented to hair shafts, and a few may be overlooked in thick hair. (Removal of nits is required for student to return to classroom in this school district.)

The timing of the second treatment is critical. The pediculicide shampoo should be applied 8-10 days after the first treatment. Applying the second treatment sooner would probably be a waste of time and money. Waiting 8 days allows all remaining viable eggs to hatch, and these hatched crawling lice are generally more susceptible to the shampoo than are the eggs. However, none of the newly hatched lice will reach reproductive age before the second treatment, and therefore no new eggs will be deposited.

The above information is from recommendations provided by [redacted]