



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Zanesville-Muskingum County

Our Mission

Prevent. Promote. Protect. Public Health is our Passion!

Steps for Treating Head Lice

- Both over-the-counter and prescription medications are available for treatment of head lice
- All household members and other close contacts should be checked for head lice - those persons with evidence of infestation should be treated.
- Re-treatment is usually recommended
- The first application of lice-killing hair product (shampoo or crème rinse) is used to kill the live bugs. Additional treatments should not occur for another 7-10 days.
- Removing nits should occur every day until no more nits are found.
- Carpets, mattresses, car seats and furniture should be vacuumed every day for 7-10 days.

Notifying Others

- **School Nurse:** If you learn that your child has lice, you need to inform your child's school nurse, as she will take responsibility for the school management and provide you with information and advice for treating the lice, removing nits, and preventing their reoccurrence. She will also discuss with you any applicable school policy or protocol.
- **Doctor:** You should consult your child's primary care provider regarding a recommended over-the-counter ovicidal product for your child to treat lice, and ask for guidance if your child has any other health conditions or allergies that may need special consideration.
- **Family & Friends:** You should contact your child's close friends, relatives, and contacts so those children may be checked and monitored for live lice and nits.
- **Household:** You should also check your other children and spouse/partner or other adults in the household. You need to notify your child's school nurse.

Returning to School

- Check with your child's daycare, preschool, or school district regarding their policy on head lice. Each school has their own individual policy on when students can and should return after having head lice.

Resources

- Video: Removing Head Lice Safely visit www.zmchd.org. Click "Schools" from the main page, and then click on "Head Lice Education" from the drop down menu. On the Head Lice Education page there is a list of resources that includes the video.

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