

Treatment for Head Lice

Signs of head lice have been identified on your child. To prevent further spread in school, this condition needs to be treated. Taipei American School has established a **NIT-FREE policy**. This means that students are asked to remain at home until no live head lice are present and until all nits (eggs) have been removed.

Please follow the attached instructions for proper treatment and removal of nits. Please remember that the best way to rid your child's hair of nits/eggs is to pull them off with a fine tooth comb or with your fingernails. Work from the back to the front in small sections, paying close attention to the nape of the neck, behind the ears and around the face. This is a slow, tedious process and we thank you for your patience.

To Adequately Treat Your Child:

(Guidelines of the US Center for Disease Control)

1. Contact your local physician to obtain the appropriate medicated shampoo. Please follow the physician's instructions carefully or the instructions on the box of the medicated shampoo. Pay close attention to how long the shampoo should be left on and how it should be washed out of the hair.
2. Have your child put on clean clothing after treatment.
3. If a few live lice are still found 8-12 hours after treatment, but are moving more slowly than before, do not retreat. The medicine may take longer to kill all the lice. Comb dead and any remaining live lice out of the hair using a fine-toothed nit comb.
4. If, after 8-12 hours of treatment, no dead lice are found and lice seem as active as before, the medicine may not be working. Do not retreat until speaking with your local physician; a different lice shampoo may be necessary. If your health care provider recommends a different pediculicide (lice shampoo), carefully follow the treatment instructions contained in the box or printed on the label.
5. Please comb through the hair with a Nit comb that is provided in the lice medicine package. Pull the nits and lice away from the hair shaft. Using a flea comb for a cat and dog can also be effective. Also, each nit can be pulled away from the base of the hair with your fingernail as well.
6. After each treatment, checking the hair and combing with a nit comb to remove nits and lice every 2-3 days may decrease the chance of self-reinfestation. Continue to check for 2-3 weeks to be sure all lice and nits are gone.
7. Retreatment is meant to kill any surviving hatched lice before they produce new eggs. For some drugs, retreatment is recommended routinely about a week after the first treatment (7-9 days, depending on the drug) and for others, only if crawling lice are seen during this period. Please contact your physician regarding retreatment.

To Adequately Treat Your Child's Environment:

(Guidelines of the US Center for Disease Control)

1. Machine wash and dry all clothing, jackets, hats, and bed linens your child has worn in the 2 days prior to treatment for head lice. A hot water cycle must be used for washing and a high heat cycle must be used for drying.
2. Any items that cannot be washed can be dry cleaned or put into a plastic bag for 2 weeks. These items include stuffed toys.
3. Disinfect all combs, brushes, headbands in hot water for at least 5 to 10 min.
4. Vacuum the floor and furniture, particularly where the infested person sat or lay. However, the risk of getting infested by a louse that has fallen onto a rug or carpet or furniture is very small. Head lice survive less than 1-2 days if they fall off a person and cannot feed; nits cannot hatch and usually die within a week if they are not kept at the same temperature as that found close to the human scalp. Spending much time and money on housecleaning activities is not necessary to avoid reinfestation by lice or nits that may have fallen off the head or crawled onto furniture or clothing.
5. Check all family members regularly and treat any person who is infested with lice.
6. Please do not use insecticides and fumigant spray which can be toxic if inhaled or absorbed on the skin.

Please have a parent or adult accompany your child to the Nurse's Office when you feel your child has been **treated for head lice and all nits have been removed**. The nurse will examine your child's hair and determine if they can return to school. If there are any continued signs of infestation, your child will need to return home until all nits are removed.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping to control the spread of head lice. We understand that this is a tedious and time consuming process, but it is necessary. Please feel free to contact the Nurses Office for any questions or concerns at 2873-9900 ext 220.

Sincerely,

Shiow Yih Yeh, RN

Melissa Long, RN

Jennifer Nicholas, RN

TAS Nursing Staff