

Dear Christ the King Parents,

Today we were made aware of two children who recently came down with head lice and were treated. It's not uncommon to find lice, therefore we ask you not to be alarmed. As a precaution, please check your child this week. Whenever we find that a child has lice at school, we send them home for treatment and re-check that child before they are allowed to return to school. Please inform the school if at any time you find lice, initiate the treatment process and inform school of actions taken prior to their return. The following information is sent to give you the facts needed to detect and treat lice.

DESCRIPTION: Head lice are insects, flattened in shape from top to bottom; they have no wings and do not jump or fly. They fall or crawl. They do not transmit disease; body lice do that. They do not live on animals, only on humans.

DIAGNOSIS: Lice is suspected when itching is reported, when a child is observed scratching his/her head (to excess), or when exposure has occurred. The diagnosis may also be made by observing adult or immature lice on the scalp, or nits (eggs) on the hair. Nits are most often found on the hair behind the ears and on the back of the neck. They are yellowish or white, approximately 8.0mm long and are firmly attached to the hair shaft. They are found at the base of the hair within 1mm of the skin. Do not confuse them with dandruff which is easily removed from the hair with fingers.

TRANSMISSION: Lice is spread by direct contact with infested articles such as clothing, hats, scarves, jacket hoods, combs, brushes, bedding and sports helmets.

KILLING LICE: If your child should have lice, the entire family and all close contacts must be treated. Please contact your health care provider for advice on treatment. Several over-the-counter medications are available, such as RID, A-2000, and Nix. Read the directions on the package carefully prior to using. Because lice and their nits can survive for a time off the human, care must be taken to clean the environment. Here are some guidelines to follow:

1. Laundering in hot washing and drying cycles all contaminated clothing.
2. Dry-cleaning items which cannot be laundered.
3. Soaking in water that is hotter than 150F for a minimum of ten minutes items that cannot be laundered or dry-cleaned.
4. Bagging the items and placing the bag in the freezer for 48 hours or place in an airtight plastic bag and set aside for 2 weeks. (For items which cannot get wet).
5. Wet sponging of smooth surfaces with bleach solution. (1/4 Tbsp. Bleach to one quart of water).
6. Vacuum cleaning is as effective as lice-specific insecticide sprays for killing nits on large environmental surfaces such as floors, carpets, chairs, mattresses, and couches.

PLEASE CAUTION YOUR CHILDREN TO NOT EXCHANGE BRUSHES, COMBS, HATS OR OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS.

If you have any questions, please refer them to the school office and we will consult with the county health department to get you an answer.

Thanks,

Chris George