

TREATMENT OF HEAD LICE

The following is a suggested procedure you may wish to confirm with your physician or local health department prior to use.

A. *Treatment of the Child*

1. Remove all your child's clothing and place him/her in a bath or shower staff and the clothing in a plastic bag.
2. Apply head louse treatment according to your physician's instructions or label instructions provided by the drug manufacturer. There are medicated liquids (pediculicides) available for head lice – RID, Kwell, etc.* Kwell is available by prescription only; RID and others may be purchased without prescription from the drug store. There is no published evidence to indicate that one product is superior to the others.
3. Have your child put on clean clothing after treatment.
4. Repeat treatment in seven (7) – ten (10) days. (While the pediculicides mentioned above rapidly kill crawling lice, they may not kill all the nits. Therefore, the treatment should be repeated in seven (7) – ten (10) days to kill newly hatched lice. The seven (7) – ten (10) days interval corresponds to the incubation period of a louse's egg.)
5. All family members and close friends of your child should be examined. Family members who have evidence of infestation (crawling forms or nits) should be treated. Siblings or a parent who shares a bed with a known infested child should be treated, whether or not there is evidence of infestation at the time of the examination.

B. *Decontamination of Personal Articles and Environment*

Since heat is lethal to lice and their eggs, many personal articles can be disinfested by machine washing in hot water and/or drying using the hot cycle of the dryer. Eggs are killed in five (5) minutes at 51.5°C (125°F), and crawling forms succumb to slightly lower temperatures. Home hot water heaters keep water at about 60°C when the heat selector is set on medium or high. However, some water heaters are not able to sustain the 60°C water temperature when several loads of laundry are processed one after the other or when other demands for hot water (bathing) are made simultaneously. To maintain the water at 60°C or higher, allow time between loads of laundry or baths for the water heater to regain its maximum water temperature. If total reliance is placed in the clothes dryer for disinfestations, dry articles for at least twenty (20) minutes at the high heat setting. Some non-washable articles may be disinfested in the dryer provided that the heat will not harm them.

1. Machine wash all washable clothing and bed linens that have been in contact with your child within the previous three (3) days.

***Use of trade names is for identification only and does not constitute endorsement.**

2. Personal articles of clothing or bedding that can not be washed or dried may be dry cleaned or simply left in a plastic bag and sealed for a period of ten (10) days.
3. Combs, brushes, and similar items can be disinfested by soaking them in one of the pediculicide liquids for one (1) hour or by soaking them in a pan of water heated on the stove to about 150°F for five (5) – ten (10) minutes (caution: heat may damage some combs and brushes).
4. To break the infestation-re-infestation cycle, spray Li-Ban (a lice control spray) on inanimate objects that cannot be either laundered or dry-cleaned.

C. ***Notification of Other Parents***

Parents of your child's closest friend(s) should be notified that their child may also be infested since the children play together. This is particularly important if the children have slept together or participated in activities involving frequent body contact such as wrestling, ballet classes, football, etc.

D. ***Returning to School***

Your child may return to school the morning after s/he has been treated with a head louse shampoo.