

The Department of School Health welcomes you and your child back to school. As we proceed through our school year, we want to ensure that all students are experiencing the best learning each day offers. While we encourage students to develop friends and enjoy each other's companionship, teaching and knowing boundaries are for our children's safety. Due to the recent changes within the medical community concerning head lice, **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta** offers valuable information regarding the most current recommendations for management of this condition in the school setting.

A head lice infestation is a pesky condition that, if left untreated, can cause itching, sleeplessness, and inattention in the classroom.

What are Head lice?

Lice are small, wingless, gray insects about the size of a sesame seed. Lice lay tiny white eggs called nits that can also be seen in the hair. Head lice can be spread from one person to another by close contact or by sharing personal items.

What are possible symptoms?

Tiny gray bugs in the hair
Nits attached to the hair
Itchy scalp

What is the treatment? *(Either or both methods are recommended)*

1. Shampoo and rinse treatment: Shampoo or rinse your child's hair with a special anti-lice shampoo or hair rinse (available over the counter or by doctor's prescription) For preschool age children, check with your child's doctor.
2. Wet combing treatment: Comb through your child's hair with a metal fine-toothed comb. Plastic combs do not work well. The comb works best on wet hair. Repeat the combing every day for 3-4 days as needed until no live lice or nits are found.

When can my child return to daycare and school?

In general, after one shampoo treatment if all live lice are gone or all live lice are removed by wet combing. *(Coweta County School Nurses will assist parents in looking for remaining live lice or possible living eggs (nits) which are close to the scalp when the child returns to school following treatment)*

How do I prevent my child from getting head lice again?

- *Clean any lice or nits from your home and child's things. *(School nurses have information they can share with you on this process)*
- *Check everyone who lives in your home for lice and nits - both adults and children.
- *Teach your child not to share items such as combs, brushes, coats, scarves, hats, towels, hair ribbons, nap mats and barrettes.

Thank you for your time and attention.

