

Guidelines for Lice and Other Communicable Infestations and Diseases

1. **Suspect:** If you have reasonable suspicion (based off of training) and you have asked the child about the itch, red marks, rash, cough, etc. or checked temperature and see that they have a fever (99.6°F+) then:
2. **Contact:** Text and/or call a parent or guardian to the room (Sunday school, childcare, or Children's Church) using their information in planning center. If no response in a reasonable amount of time, have someone get the parent/guardian. Once parent/guardian arrives, get somewhere you can have a private conversation.
3. **Talk:** Lay out your reasonable suspicion with the parent in non-condemning way. Ask if they have had any suspicions of this or if they have checked. Ask them what have they seen. This way you can know if they have seen the same things you have.
4. **Permission:** For lice, ask the parent for permission to call over one of our approved personnel to check about this issue. If yes, get one of these approved personnel. If no, inform parent to contact a member of the pastoral staff who will make immediate determination as to what happens next.
 - a. **Approved Personnel:** Tina Worley, Juanita Braga, Laura Kelly, Kathy Cain, Jenny Ryon, and Gladys Roldan.
5. **Reassure:** Reassure the parents that everything is ok. If lice is suspected, get the lice check kit that is in room 11 in the first aid drawer.
6. **Check:** The approved personnel will check the child in a private setting with parent/guardian present and confirm reasonable suspicion or will inform that nothing is wrong. If reasonable suspicion was wrong, go back to business as usual, reassuring them of our love for the child and the family. If correct, reassure parents that it is going to be ok. Give them our parent handout and let them know we want them back whenever it is safe to do so.
7. **If child is sick or is found to have lice or another communicable illness** have the Director of Children's Ministry inform other parents as soon as reasonably possible to do so.

Patient education: Lice (The Basics)

What are lice?

Lice are tiny insects that can live on people's hair and cause itching. Lice do not fly or jump. They are spread by person-to-person contact or by sharing clothes and personal items from items like hats or combs. Lice can lay eggs, also called "nits," which attach to the base of the hair shaft then hatch into new lice. People can find lice and nits on their body or in their hair. Dogs, cats, and other pets do not play a role in the transmission of human lice.

How can I tell if I have lice?

Most people have itching on the part of the body where the lice are. But some people might not have any symptoms at all. They might find out they have lice only by seeing small white nits or live lice in their hair. Sometimes it is easier to see nits, because lice can move quickly and hide from view.

Is there anything I can do on my own to get rid of lice?

Yes. If you or your child has lice you can:

- Use an over-the-counter (OTC) non-prescription cream or lotion on your hair that kills lice. Be sure to follow all of the directions on the label.
- Use a special fine-toothed comb to carefully comb out nits and lice from your hair.
- If the person has very long hair (longer than shoulder length), it may be necessary to use a second bottle.
- All of the adults and children in the home and close contacts should be checked for lice

You will also need to get rid of and kill the lice on items in your home and vehicle so you don't get lice again. To do this, you can:

- Wash clothes, bedding, and towels in hot water and dry them on the hottest setting
- Soak combs or hair brushes in hot (130°F) for 5-10 minutes
- Vacuum your carpets and furniture
- Put things you cannot wash into a sealed plastic bag for 2 weeks
- You can also reduce your chances of getting lice by not sharing a bed, clothes, or personal items with someone who has lice

Over-the-counter Medications

Many head lice medications are available "Over-the-counter" without a prescription at a local drug store or pharmacy. Each Over-the-counter product approved by the FDA for the treatment of head lice contains one of the following active ingredients. **Always follow the label instructions when administering these medications.**

1. **Pyrethrins** combined with piperonyl butoxide;
Brand name products: A-200*, Pronto*, R&C*, Rid*, Triple X*. Pyrethrins are naturally occurring pyrethroid extracts from the chrysanthemum flower. Pyrethrins are safe and effective when used as directed. Pyrethrins can only kill live lice, not unhatched eggs (nits). A second treatment is recommended 9 to 10 days after the first treatment to kill any newly hatched lice before they can produce new eggs. Pyrethrins generally should not be used by persons who are allergic to chrysanthemums or ragweed. Pyrethrin is approved for use on children 2 years of age and older.
2. **Permethrin lotion, 1%**;
Brand name product: Nix*. Permethrin is a synthetic pyrethroid similar to naturally occurring pyrethrins. Permethrin lotion 1% is approved by the FDA for the treatment of head lice. Permethrin is safe and effective when used as directed. Permethrin kills live lice but not unhatched eggs. Permethrin may continue to kill newly hatched lice for several days after treatment. A second treatment often is necessary on day 9 to kill any newly hatched lice before they can produce new eggs. Permethrin is approved for use on children 2 months of age and older.

If you can't get rid of your lice by doing the things described above, see your doctor or nurse.

Call the church office at 602-237-4885 once you know that your child(ren) are treated and free and clear of lice, nits, bumps, rash, or other signs of illness and you are ready to come back on campus. Before coming back on campus, one of our healthcare workers will do a quick inspection to ensure the health and safety of everyone at church.

