



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.

Treatment of the Child

- Remove all your child's clothing and place the clothing in a plastic bag.
- Apply head lice 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, Nix, etc. These may be purchased without prescription from the drug store. There is no published evidence to indicate that one product is superior to the others.
- Have your child put on clean clothing after treatment.
- All family members and close friends of your child should be examined. Family members who have live lice or nits within ¼" of the scalp should be treated.

Decontamination of Personal Articles and Environment

Since heat is lethal to lice and their eggs, many personal articles can be cleaned by machine washing in **hot water** and/or drying using the hot cycle of the clothes dryer. If using the clothes dryer dry the articles for at least twenty (20) minutes at the **high heat** setting. Some non-washable articles may be cleaned in the clothes dryer provided that the heat will not harm them.

- Machine wash all washable clothing and bed linens that have been in contact with your child within the previous three (3) days.
- Personal articles of clothing, bedding or stuffed animals that can not be washed or dried may be dry cleaned or simply left in a plastic bag and sealed for a period of fourteen (14) days.
- Combs, brushes, and similar items can be treated by soaking them in rubbing alcohol or Lysol for one hour or by soaking them in a pan of water heated on the stove to near boiling, (caution: heat may damage some combs and brushes).
- Vacuum all floors, rugs, pillows, carpeting and upholstered furniture.

Notification of Other Parents

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

Returning to School

Your child may return to school after he/she has been treated.