

# COMMON CONCERNS IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

*Disease:* **Lice (Pediculosis)**

*Symptoms:* Infestation of the head hair or other hairy parts of the body or clothing with lice or nits. Scratching causes reddened rash-like area. Nits are tiny white eggs, stuck to hair usually close to scalp and neckline and/or behind ears.

*Incubation Period:* Variable, eggs hatch in one week

*Usual School Action and Comments on Communicability:*

1. Exclude until lice and nits are adequately treated.
2. Nurse to check head when return to school.
3. Advise exam of household contacts for nits and lice.

*Source of Infection and Mode of Transmission:* Louse transmitted primarily by direct contact with infested person. Lice can also be transmitted through combs, brushes, bedding, wearing apparel and upholstered furniture. Thorough cleaning and washing of clothing and bedding required to rid household of Lice.

*Online Resources:*

- <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/headlice/index.html>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/>
- <http://www.hennepin.us/residents/health-medical/infectious-diseases>
- <http://www.pediculosis.com/>
- <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/225013-overview>
- <http://www.headlice.org/>