

Lice Facts

- Lice do not have wings, therefore can not fly. Lice also do not jump, they can only crawl.
- Lice is most readily transmitted by direct head to head contact. Rarely is it transmitted by objects such as clothing or brushes.
- Lice rely on a human host to survive. Without a human host, they live less than 24 hours.
- Only items that have been in direct contact with an infected person's head in the 24-48 hours before diagnosis need to be considered for cleaning.
- Pediculicide (lice killing) spray should NOT be used.
- Lice affects all socioeconomic groups, and evidence suggests that those with good hygiene may be infected more often.
- Nits (eggs) are cemented to the hair shaft by the adult louse, and therefore can not 'fall off', or 'fly off' a person's head.
- Nits can not be transmitted from one person to another, only live (crawling) lice.
- By the time an active case is found, the person likely has been infected for a month or more.
- Exclusion of children from school is not recommended, re: exposure has already occurred, and exclusion does not decrease transmission.
- The likelihood of transmission in schools is roughly 1%
- Active infestations are most often identified in schools, due to trained staff with the ability to identify symptoms, nits, and live lice. This perpetuates the myth that students transmit lice in schools.
- There is no evidence that school exclusion decreases the transmission of head lice, and evidence suggests exclusion increases absenteeism, shame, stigma, and unnecessary treatment.
- Lice are not a health threat, and do not carry disease. They are merely a nuisance and an inconvenience. .
- The right to privacy and confidentiality must be upheld for the student and family experiencing lice. This is the reason lice letters are no longer recommended.
- Preventative treatment is not recommended, and is unnecessary. Only people with active infections need to be treated.
- Alert letters may violate privacy laws, and cause unnecessary public alarm.
- Your child is more likely to catch a cold, influenza, or strep at school than lice.

Pierz Schools follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) for lice treatment and school exclusion.