



## Head Lice

### Overview

Head lice can be a nuisance, but they have not been shown to spread disease. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice. The head louse is a parasitic insect that can be found on the head, and at times, the eyebrows, and eyelashes of people. Head lice feed on human blood several times a day, live close to the human scalp and are found worldwide.

Head lice move by crawling; they cannot hop or fly. They are spread by direct contact with the hair of an infested person. Anyone who comes in head-to-head contact with someone who already has head lice is at greatest risk. It is also possible that contact with clothing (hats, scarves, coats) or other personal items (combs, brushes, or towels) used by an infested person is a means of spreading head lice.

Although highly qualified experienced groups such as the American Association of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses advocate that “no nit” policies should be discontinued, the principal, in consultation with the Pastor and School Advisory Council (SAC), will determine what will work best for the treatment procedures and control of the infestation of head lice at St. Louis Catholic School.

### Process

- A) If St. Louis School is not sure if a student has head lice, the diagnosis should be made by the family’s health care provider or other person trained to identify live head lice.
- B) St. Louis School will notify school families when a case of head lice occurs in a classroom reminding parents/guardians to check their child’s hair.
- C) If head lice are found in several students in one classroom or in more than one classroom, all students will be respectfully examined by trained personnel.

### Resources

Listed below are a variety of resources available to access related to the identification and treatment of head lice. Internet/website addresses change frequently, so if you cannot find the link, search for the information using an internet browser.

Center for Disease Control

[http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/gen\\_info/faqs.html](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/gen_info/faqs.html)

Diagnosis of Head Lice

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/diagnosis.html>

Treatment of Head Lice

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/treatment.html>

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

[https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DC\\_ComDis-Infectious\\_Diseases-in-Child-Care-and-School-Settings.pdf](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DC_ComDis-Infectious_Diseases-in-Child-Care-and-School-Settings.pdf)