

HEALTH OFFICE CONTACT

Hours of Operation

Monday—Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone

480-362-2425

www.SaltRiverSchools.org



Lice are parasites that can be found on people's heads and bodies. Lice move by crawling; they cannot hop or fly. Head lice problems occur year-round. However, it is during the school year that head lice cases seem to be the most common. Head lice do not spread disease, but they are distracting. Sores can develop on the scalp from scratching where these insects live.

Lice are not an indicator of poverty or a result of poor hygiene. They are also not an environmental problem. Head lice do not infest classrooms or homes. They are blood-feeding insects that specialize in surviving on the human head close to the scalp on the hair shaft. The egg is cemented to the hair so it will not fall off. They do not survive for very long (24-48 hours) when separated from the warm and humid body environment.

Students with signs of head lice are seen in the health office to have their head combed and their parent notified. Families will be given lice shampoo and a comb, as well as information on how to get rid of lice. Students will not be sent home, UNLESS they have open sores and fluid on their head (if students are sent home, they must have a doctor's note to return to school and will need to be checked by the health office upon their return).

From the Health Office How to Get Rid of Lice



Lice are NOT an indicator of low income, poor parenting, or infested environment. They can happen to anyone.

STEPS TO REMOVE LICE

Apply lots of conditioner to your child's wet hair. Rub it into the scalp and along the hair shafts. Leave the conditioner on for at least 15 minutes.

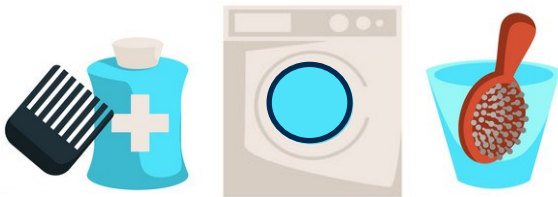
Use the special lice comb to remove the nits and conditioner from your child's hair. Comb your child's entire head thoroughly at least twice.

Most lice treatments need to be repeated several days after the first application. About 8-12 hours after the second treatment, check the scalp: Lice should be dead or dying, not active or moving on the scalp.

Vacuum furniture and carpets, especially if the person with lice frequently lies on them.

Soak combs, brushes, and any other hair tools in hot water for 5-10 minutes. For even greater protection, consider replacing them.

Wash scarves, hats, and other clothing that comes into direct contact with the head. Running the clothing in the dryer is fine if the clothing cannot be washed safely. Wash or replace pillows and pillowcases.



Encourage children not to share combs, brushes, hats, or scarves with other children.

It might feel time-consuming and frustrating to wash so many different items, but head lice will return even if a handful of nits make their way back onto the head. The extra time now can save lots of time overall.

Often, by the time you get a call from the school health office, your child has had head lice for a while. Your whole family may need to be treated to prevent infestation.

There is no proven deterrent to 100% prevent your child from getting head lice.

Stay alert for suspicious head scratching. Itching is an allergic reaction to lice saliva. Not all kids will experience itching right away, but if they have had head lice before, they are more likely to start itching sooner. Catching and treating lice ASAP will help you stop a head lice problem at its roots.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT HEALTH OFFICE STAFF

Students with head lice/nits will not be excused from school for more than one day, unless a doctor's note says otherwise.