

Williamsport Area School District
Office of Student Services
Dept. of School Health Services

The Facts About Head Lice

Head Lice will always be a part of our society. Since many myths and rumor exist about lice, we are providing our students and parents with the most accurate, scientific information available.

- Head lice are tiny, wingless insects. They do not jump, fly nor are they able to crawl long distances.
- Head lice do not care disease and do not pose a serious threat to health. They are considered a nuisance problem. Anyone can get head lice!
- Prevention of head lice is best attained through education. Parents should learn how to recognize lice and their eggs (nits), and check their children for head lice twice a week at home. Head lice are most often transmitted in the home environment and where close personal contact occurs such as sleepovers. The sooner a case of lice is found, the easier the treatment becomes!
- There is no scientific evidence to support the concept that mass screenings for lice are effective in reducing the spread of lice. Therefore, health services staff no longer conduct mass screenings of classrooms.
- When head lice are discovered, do not panic! Treatments are available over the counter or by contacting your family physician. Follow the directions on the product packaging carefully. Elimination of lice takes time and persistence! Please do not spend any of your valuable time and energy in seeking someone to blame. It is impossible to identify the exact source of infestation. Your time and energy should be used to treat and educate your child.

For complete details about head lice and proper treatment, contact your school nurse or visit the website <http://identify.us.com/head-lice/index.html> .