

## Useful Information

Having head lice is not a serious medical condition unless it is not taken care of properly.

Over-the-counter lice treatment shampoo, such as Rid and Nix, can be more serious than head lice, because they contain certain pesticides.

Irrational reactions to head lice can lead to fumigating classrooms, schools, buses, etc. This is expensive and unnecessary.

Much information about head lice is based on old, unproven information.

Direct physical head-to-head contact is the usual method of transmission.

Transmission is not likely via clothing, hats, furniture, carpets, school bus seats, and other objects, because lice die within 24 hours and start slowing down within 6 hours of leaving the head.

Carpets and furniture are not a significant cause of head lice.

There is no relationship between personal cleanliness and transmission.

It is unlikely that a nit on a stray hair shaft will hatch because it needs the human head to incubate.

Stray lice that fall off a head are probably either injured or dying and incapable of causing a new infestation.

It is not possible to tell whether treatment has been successful by the appearance of the eggs. Follow through with a thorough treatment plan until the recommended end.

Although schools, camps, day care centers are often blamed for head lice outbreaks, it is the family unit that maintains cases leading to outbreaks in these institutions. That is why it is important to communicate to friends that your family has head lice – to stop the vicious cycle of giving and getting head lice. Have all family members checked and if necessary, treat. Remember, at one time or another, we may all have to deal with head lice. It is how we deal with it that separates us.

Because it is possible, although unlikely, that a louse on a piece of hair that fell off a head will survive long enough to cause infestation, only light cleaning is necessary.

Taken from [licesolutions.org](http://licesolutions.org)