

# Lice (Pediculosis)



ON THE SCALP



ON THE HAIR



# Cause



- is not an infectious disease, but an infestation
- transmitted by head to head contact or by contact with infected combs, hats, etc.

# Symptoms



- intense itching, worse at night. There may be broken areas on the scalp due to bites and scratching.
- lice may be visible on scalp

# Treatment



- shampooing with a permethrin-based product that is left on for 10 minutes (this should kill nits as well)
- a second treatment should be completed 7-10 days after the first to kill new, unhatched lice
- **pregnant women and children under 2** should contact physician for direction
- need to be vigilant in looking for nits and remove them from the head when seen

# Work Restrictions



- **If infested with lice**, staff must remain out of the workplace until 24 hours after the first treatment is completed, but are strongly encouraged to complete the second treatment in 7-10 days. **Contact Occupational Health.**
- **If exposed to lice** (including family members), there are no work restrictions or modification of work practices.

# Prevention



- avoid direct contact with infested person
- avoid contact with items used on head of infected person (combs, hats, etc.) Advise children in household to do the same
- launder clothing, bedding, and other personal belongings in hot water for at least 20 minutes