

A Bug's Life

Head lice

Pediculus humanus capitis

Fun facts

- Transmitted from head-to-head contact or sharing personal items like helmets, brushes, headsets, etc.
- Commonly occurs in social groups or among family members
- Lice cannot live off head for more than 48 hours, need blood from host
- If eggs (nits) are found more than 1/2" from scalp, they will not hatch

Identification

Eggs: Oval-shaped, glued tightly to hair shaft close to scalp

Lice: Wingless, soft-bodied, gray-brown color insects with claws for front legs, nymphs look like adults but smaller

Symptoms: Tickling sensations, difficulty sleeping, rashes, itchy scalp

Management

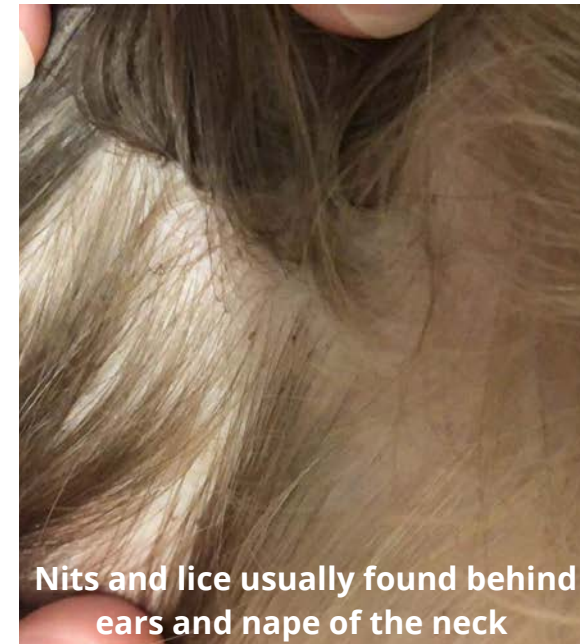
- Perform head checks of family members and treat those with lice
- Launder and dry bedding
- Bag infested items for 48 hours
- Comb hair with a fine-toothed, metal comb to remove nits and lice
- Use FDA-approved pediculicide to kill lice (OTC or by prescription)
- Read label and follow directions



JNL Department of Entomology



J. Green



Nits and lice usually found behind ears and nape of the neck