

## Cleaning Up After the Louse

- ★ Do not use insecticides or pediculicides in any classroom, day care or home (this includes spraying/fogging).
- ★ Do not hire an exterminator to treat the school, day care or home.
- ★ Vacuum and/or wipe down floors & wipeable furniture with a standard cleaning solution. Remember, head lice cannot fly but do crawl. Can live off a human host up to 24-48 hours. But, more likely 24 hours, 48 is more rare.
- ★ Floors, rugs, pillows and upholstered furniture should be thoroughly vacuumed. There is no need to discard the vacuum bag after cleaning, except for aesthetic purposes.
- ★ Clothing, linen, and cloth toys worn or handled by the infested individuals during the two days before diagnosis should be washed in water hotter than 130° F, or machine dried at the hottest setting for at least 20 minutes.
- ★ Other articles may be dry-cleaned or sealed in a plastic bag for at least two weeks to kill nits, or place articles in the dryer on high heat for 20-30 minutes.
- ★ Store each child's possessions in individual cubbies, lockers, or even in individual plastic bags - especially if cubbies are in a close approximation.
- ★ Teach children to hang coats separately - placing hats/mittens in sleeves of jackets/coats.
- ★ Keep cloth book bags separated, as backpacks can be a major source of infection.
- ★ Teach children not to share clothing, hats/caps, helmets, headsets, or personal grooming articles (barrettes, headbands, hair jewelry, etc.). Individual combs should be distributed on picture day.
- ★ Store towels, smocks, and gym clothing brought from home in separate cubbies and remind students to bring these articles home frequently for washing.
- ★ Shared headgear should be cleaned & disinfected with Lysol or rubbing alcohol before use by other children.