

CONRAD WEISER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES  
*LICE: Myths and Truths*

Myths	Truths
Lice are easy to get.	Lice are spread only by head-to-head contact. They are much harder to get than a cold, flu, ear infection, pink eye, strep throat, food poisoning, or impetigo.
You can get lice from your dog, guinea pig, or other animal.	Lice are species specific. You can only get human lice only from another human. You cannot get lice from a pet or animal.
You cannot get lice by sharing hats and helmets.	Lice can be passed through sharing hats, scarves, combs, hairbrushes, pillows, and sheets.
School is a common place for lice transmission.	School is a VERY RARE source of transmission. Much more common sources are family members, overnight guests, and playmates who spend a large amount of time together.
Poor hygiene contributes to lice.	Hygiene makes absolutely no difference. You get lice by close personal contact with someone else who has lice, not by being dirty.
Lice can jump or fly from one person to another.	Lice can only crawl. They can neither fly nor jump. They must crawl from one person to another.
Any nits left in the hair can cause lice to come back.	Any nits farther away than 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch on the hair shaft are ALREADY HATCHED and pose no risk to others.
Eggs or nits can fall out of the hair, hatch, and cause lice in another person.	Nits are glued to the hair and are very hard to remove. They cannot fall off. Newly hatched larvae must find a head quickly or will die.
Lice can live a long time.	Lice live only 1 or 2 days off the head.
All members of the family should be treated if one person has lice.	Only the person with lice should be treated. Lice shampoos are PESTICIDES and can be dangerous if used incorrectly or too frequently. Household members and close contacts should be checked, but only treat those who actually have lice. The house should NOT be sprayed with lice sprays, nor should lice spray be used on clothing or other items.
Checking a classroom when one student has lice can prevent lice from spreading.	Classroom transmission is EXCEEDINGLY RARE and a waste of valuable teaching time. Checking family members and close playmates is the currently recommendation.
Avoiding lice is important as they spread disease.	Lice do not spread any known disease. They are annoying, but cause no disease.