Managing presumed head louse infestations at home

'Nits' discovered on hair?

No

Relax! Do NOT treat for lice.

Yes

• Inspect hair for live (crawling) lice.
• Compare samples to images on our website or submit a sample for evaluation.
• Inspect all other people in the home for live lice.

Live (crawling) lice on hair?

No

Periodically reinspect hair for live lice. Do NOT treat.

Yes

Is the hair readily combed with a louse comb?

No

Treat

Yes

• Comb hair thoroughly with a louse comb.
• Use hair conditioner to lubricate hair and comb. Many lice and eggs should be removed during the first combing session.
• Repeat every few days. Subsequent combing will remove another portion of the remaining, as well as any new, lice and eggs.
• Continue periodic combing until no live lice are discovered for an interval of about two weeks.
• Treatment with pediculicides may supplement or replace combing.

Do live (crawling) lice persist after the second treatment?

No

Treat

Yes

• Consult with your physician.
• Consider prescription pediculicides that contain an active ingredient different than that of your over-the-counter product.

• Removal of remaining nits should be a personal choice, as these are likely to be all dead or hatched.
• Change or launder pillow cases, pajamas and towels exposed to lice within the past day.