Managing presumed head louse infestations in schools

'Nits' discovered on hair?

No → Relax. Do NOT treat for lice.

Yes →
- Inspect hair for live lice
- Compare samples to images on our web site or
- submit a sample or image for evaluation

Live (crawling) lice on hair?

No → Periodically reinspect hair for live lice

Yes →
- Submit image(s) and/or Specimen Evaluation Form to IdentifyUS

Recommended responses ✓

- Notifying parent / guardian at the end of the day of the suspected infestation.
- Providing information on the biology of head lice and methods to eliminate infestations.

Unjustified responses ×

- Excluding or quarantining the student or his/her possessions.
- Violating confidentiality of the affected student and his/her family.
- Notifying other students and parents of minor health issues affecting classmates.
- Mass screening of children for head lice or their eggs.
- Applying insecticides to classrooms and buses.
- Reporting cases of head lice to youth or social services.
- Bagging of coats and clothes.
- Restricting the use of headphones or helmets.

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