

**United Pentecostal Church
Indiana District Campground
Management of Head Lice**

Objective

To establish a standard policy to identify, contain, and manage suspected and confirmed cases of head lice of campers.

Definition

Head lice are parasitic insects that can be found on individuals' heads. Human lice survive by feeding on human blood. Adult head lice are roughly 2-3 mm long. Head lice infest the head and neck and attach their eggs to the base of the hair shaft.

Head lice infestations are spread most commonly by close person-to-person contact. Dogs, cats, and other pets do not play a role in the transmission of human lice. Lice move by crawling and cannot hop or fly. Both over-the-counter and prescription medications are available for treatment of lice infestations.

The risk of getting infested by a louse that has fallen onto a rug or carpet or furniture is very small. Head lice survive less than 1-2 days if they fall off a person and cannot feed. Nits cannot hatch and usually die within a week if they are not kept at the same temperature as that found close to the human scalp. Spending much time and money on housecleaning activities is not necessary to avoid re-infestation by lice or nits that may have fallen off the head or crawled onto furniture or clothing.

(All above information taken from www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head)

Identification and Management for registered campers

- Camp staff who identify a suspected case of head lice will discreetly escort the camper to the designated camp health officer for inspection. (Suspicion is based on seeing bugs crawling in the hair, individual is scratching head excessively, may be irritable and having trouble sleeping since lice are more active in the dark.)
- Confirmed cases will be treated with over-the-counter lice treatment strictly following directions on the label. A fine tooth, specialized comb must be used to remove all nits. (Minor campers' parents and/or guardian should be called for permission. If preferred, parents and/or guardians may sign their child out and treat them at home.)
- If there is a large amount of campers with confirmed cases, the camp director may choose to send campers home for treatment.
- The clothes that have been worn by the camper since their arrival, towels, and their bedding should be washed in hot water and dried on high heat. Combs and brushes should be discarded and may be replaced by camp officials if the camper remains on the campground.
- Any camper who has shared clothing or has been in close physical contact with the camper with the confirmed case should also be inspected and treated as stated above for the confirmed case.

- As a precautionary measure, all campers assigned to the same dormitory as the camper with the confirmed case should be inspected by a trained individual(s) in their dormitory assuring privacy and avoiding humiliation to all campers.

Campers who are effectively treated may return to camp after being re-inspected by the camp health officer or another trained individual designated by the camp director

