The NPA emphasizes the importance of education in advance of outbreaks.

The NPA's Ten Tips for Head Lice & Nit Removal

'Cuz if you don't get 'em out ...you've still got 'em!™

1. Work under a good light, such as a lamp or the natural sunlight from sitting by a window or going outdoors.

2. Use a grooming comb or hairbrush to remove tangles then divide the hair in sections and fasten off the hair that is not being worked on.

3. Use the LiceMeister® comb to detect the presence of lice and nits.

4. Using the comb, go through each section from the scalp to the end of the hair. You can dip the comb into a cup of water, use a paper towel, or use the LiceMeister® comb cleaning device to remove any lice, nits or debris from the comb between passings.

5. Look through that same section of hair for attached nits (lice eggs) and live lice. Nits are always oval-shaped, while usually grayish-white, they can vary in color. Viable nits are generally laid close to the scalp but can be found anywhere on the hair shaft.

6. Remember, all lice-killing products are pesticides. If you choose to purchase an over-the-counter treatment, follow the directions carefully and use with caution. Consult your pharmacist or physician before applying or using lice treatment pesticides when the person involved is pregnant, nursing, has allergies, asthma, epilepsy, pre-existing medical conditions, or has lice or nits in the eyebrows or eyelashes. Never use products that contain lindane. Never use a pesticide on or near the eyes.

7. Wash bedding and recently worn clothing in hot water and dry in hot dryer. Vacuuming is the safest and best way to remove lice or fallen hairs with attached nits from upholstered furniture, rugs, stuffed animals and car seats. Avoid lice sprays!

8. The comb should be boiled before use on different individuals.

9. Even under the best of conditions, a few lice or nits may be missed. Use the LiceMeister® comb to screen the infested person every day and regularly thereafter. Seeing a nit or two the next day does not necessarily mean reinestation. However, be sure to remove them immediately. Being consistent and diligent about screening and manual removal will go a long way toward controlling the problem.

10. If additional nits (at least 3-5 per day) are discovered, this may signal that live lice may be on the head. Another thorough manual search is recommended at that time. Remember that each day is a new day for the risk of a new infestation. Routine screening is vital for anything that may have been missed and also for identifying a new infestation as early as possible.

The LiceMeister® comb enables parents to accomplish these important steps at home:

- Screen safely and regularly
- Detect lice and nits as early as possible
- Remove lice and nits immediately and effectively
- Avoid panic & unnecessary use of chemicals
- Keep their children in school lice and nit free

Proceeds help support the NPA’s programs of education, prevention and research.

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