

Fusion Ministries Team Member Head Lice Protocol

In the event that head lice should be discovered while at church, please be mindful of and follow the following protocol.

1. Remain **calm**. Your ability to remain calm in this situation will set the tone for child/parent disclosure. The CDC recommends that an estimated 6 million to 12 million infestations occur each year in the United States among children 3 to 11 years of age. This is a very common occurrence among children.
2. Model **compassion**: remember that many times may feel like a huge embarrassment to families. Remember that we treat this just like a child who has had a fever in the past 24 hours. In order to stop it from spreading, we need to make sure treatment has been sought and that the child is no longer infected before his/her return. Lovingly assure kids that this is so very common.
3. **Clue** in: there are many misconceptions regarding head lice. Here are some facts as put out by the CDC. *Head lice are spread most commonly by direct head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact. However, much less frequently they are spread by sharing clothing or belongings onto which lice have crawled or nits attached to shed hairs may have fallen. The risk of getting infested by a louse that has fallen onto a 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 scalp.*
4. **Communicate**: In the event of the discovery of head lice, please follow the following protocol:
 - A) Contact the Children’s Pastor immediately
 - B) Refrain from discussing the issue in front of your class/small group or with other adult leaders who may be assisting you.
 - C) If a positive diagnosis of head lice is made, you will be notified prior to the end of the service at which you’re serving.

- **Calm**
- **Compassion**
- **Clue**
- **Communicate**

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Positive Diagnosis of Head Lice Procedure

1. After the notification to the Children's Pastor (or administrative assistant in the pastor's absence) of a potential case of head lice, a positive/negative diagnosis will be sought from a licensed nurse.
2. Once head lice or nits have been discovered, a phone call to the child's parents will be made asking the parents to come and pick up their child in order to prevent the spread of head lice.
3. A face to face conversation will occur between the Children's Pastor and the parent and child. In this conversation treatment advice as well as return to church activities will be discussed.
4. Upon a positive case of head lice, all children present in that service will receive a Head Lice Letter sent home (housed in the resource room wall filing system).
5. All children may be inspected at the next children's activity based on the severity of the outbreak. (This is communicated in the letter that will be sent home the week prior)
6. The children who had previously been infected must provide a written Dr. note within 24 hours saying they've been free of all nits and lice or they may opt for a check by one of our staff who has experience with head lice.
7. Kids will be welcomed to return upon a check that is clear of both nits and live lice.

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