



minnesota
Lice Lady

Oldest and Largest: Since 2010

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School Nurse Guide: Proper Head Lice Screening

Important: Visual checks alone are **NOT** reliable. When hair is parted, lice quickly move away from the light and can be missed. The most accurate way to detect an active infestation with lice and viable nits, is by using a **professional nit comb**.

Step-by-Step Screening Process

1. Prepare the Student

- Seat the child in a well-lit area.
- Explain what you're doing so they feel comfortable.

2. Use a Professional Nit Comb (Terminator Nit Free Comb)

- Start at the scalp—lice and eggs are laid **very close to the scalp**.
- Comb from scalp to hair tip, making sure the comb is flat and its teeth make **firm contact with the scalp**.

3. Check for Evidence

- After each pass (or every other pass), wipe the comb on a **damp white paper towel**.
- Focus especially on the **crown of the head**, where lice are most often found.

4. Confirm a Positive Case

- If lice or nits are found, **tape the evidence to a white piece of paper** for the parents to see.

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- Inform the teacher so **close friends in the classroom** can also be checked, even if they show no symptoms.

Important Notes for Nurses

- First-time lice infestations may take **4–6 weeks** before symptoms of itching begins.
- Encourage parents to seek **professional lice treatment** or a **professional head check** after home treatment to ensure success.
- Recommend that **everyone in the household** be checked, even if they don't have symptoms.

Cleaning & Sanitizing Combs

- After use, place combs in a **container of boiling water** or alcohol for sanitizing in between students.
- To remove debris, use an **old toothbrush** and fan nit comb tines with fingernail under running water.

Questions? Contact MN Lice Lady at **612.564.0678**. Text us magnified and focused pictures if unsure. Also, visit **mnlicelady.com** for more help.



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