

Unwanted Visitors

PARASITES.....LICE AND SCABIES



Lice - They cannot jump or fly BUT can crawl quickly from one person's head to another. From the time the eggs are laid until they hatch is around 6 to 10 days. Head lice can only survive 1 to 2 days away from the scalp. Treatment - TWO treatments of Permethrin based products 1 week apart are recommended. Contact Precautions should be practiced until 24 hours after treatment.

Combs and brushes can either be soaked in hot water (> 54 C) or washed in the pediculicide shampoo.



Scabies

Scabies are transmitted by direct skin to skin contact. Symptoms (intense itchy rash) begin two to six weeks after the 1st exposure. During the incubation period of 2-6 weeks, it is possible for the infestation to spread to others even if you have no symptoms. Close contacts may need to be treated. OHSS is informed re staff contacts.

A topical treatment is applied from the neck to the toes, left on for 12-14 hrs , then washed off. A second treatment may be given 7 -10 days later.