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### Online training available:

<https://eces.ifas.ufl.edu/>

### Pest Management in and Around Structures:

<http://www.extension.org/>

### Contact us:

<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>

#### Faith Oi

[foi@ufl.edu](mailto:foi@ufl.edu)

#### Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman

[gillett@ufl.edu](mailto:gillett@ufl.edu)

## Florida School IPM Focus on Head Lice

Let's face it, in the coming months as sports teams don their caps, head lice may be returning to a head near you. That means it is time to think about head lice prevention. One of the best ways to do that is by preparing yourself and the people you work with to look for (and change) pest conducive conditions.

There are multiple resources available regarding head lice and the various treatment options available. Some effective treatments consist of combing the hair with a metal lice comb and keeping the hair style shorter verses a long style or treating with an over the counter lice shampoo combined with an effective comb to remove any nits.

Consider contacting the local county health department nursing section and speak with a community health nurse regarding treatment options, questions, or perhaps programs that may be available to help provide treatment supplies.

Have a look at some of the material we have available on [our website](#). Don't forget you can customize our material to fit your needs. Take a minute to forward the UF article on [Head Lice](#) or the following extract from the article "[What Everyone Should Know About Head Lice](#)" to pest managers and school nurses in your school or district.

For more information about the Florida School IPM program and how to tailor our material to fit your needs please contact Faith at: [foi@ufl.edu](mailto:foi@ufl.edu) or Jennifer at: [gillett@ufl.edu](mailto:gillett@ufl.edu). We are both happy to help you make this school year a success. Don't forget our goal is to have every school using IPM to protect everyone in the school from the risks posed by pests and pesticides.

## Florida Department of Health on Controlling Head Lice



The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) School Health Program has spent many years working on head lice issues. Registered Nursing Consultants in the School Health Program provide clinical guidance to local school district staff to develop local policies and regulations regarding head lice. The School Health Program also utilizes the Florida School Integrated Pest Management guidance to assist school nurses statewide in the control of head lice.

**The School Health Program's most recent success with head lice control has been:** In recent years the program has been utilizing the

Florida Department of Health's guidelines to assist school personnel and nurses in management of *Pediculosis capitis*. The FDOH encourages early recognition of head lice infestation and prompt intervention and treatment to reduce transmission of head lice. Success occurs when careful examination of hair and scalp are used to differentiate between live lice or nits and other hair debris, such as dandruff, and when students are treated only when active lice or viable eggs are observed.

**Examples of successful IPM techniques for head lice control:** One technique school nurses utilize with success is providing counseling and education to the child and the parent. This is essential to attain the goals of prevention, early detection, and effective treatment. The FDOH encourages local school health programs to develop policies and procedures for management of head lice. Local School Health Advisory Committees can address student health issues and provide recommendations for local policy and procedures in the management of head lice in their schools. The FDOH school health program receives calls on a consistent basis from parents, school personnel, school nurses and others regarding problems with head lice. School health liaisons are happy to answer questions and assist by providing guidance and resources such as the Florida School IPM.

**If you would like to discuss head lice management as part of a school IPM program please contact ---Sheila Hinton, RN, BSN at: [sheila\\_hinton@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:sheila_hinton@doh.state.fl.us) or call (850)245-4445**

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## What Everyone Should Know About Head Lice

The human head louse, *Pediculus capitis* DeGeer, infests 10-12 million people each year in the United States. Pediculosis or "lousiness" is one of the most prevalent communicable conditions in this country. Lice are primarily transferred from person to person by direct contact or by several people using the same combs, brushes, hats, costumes, athletic equipment, towels, or bedding.

Human head lice are not found on animals or household pets and are not transmitted from pets to humans. Because of children's play activity and close contact, head louse infestations are usually found on children, but can also spread to adults. Severe infestations may cause irritation, scratching, and subsequent invasion of secondary infection from bacteria and lice feces. Itching from large numbers of bites may make the infested individual feel tired, irritable and feverish, thus the term "feeling lousy."

Information from the article **Head Lice** by R. W. Baldwin and F. M. Oi.

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## Post Your School IPM News!

We hope you will submit news items and would be happy to help you write a story if you have an idea but don't have the time to write up the information. This newsletter will be published as content arrives, please keep the information flowing! Please send news items to **Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman**.