



Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health

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Parents Stay Vigilant: Super Lice is Here

(Mason City) — Back to school season is approaching and with it comes the dreaded reality of lice affecting your child. This year, the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health is recognizing the spread of so-called super lice. The problem is that lice have mutated, making it more difficult for the chemicals in over-the-counter treatments to lock on to the lice and eliminate it. Unfortunately, Iowa is one of the Midwest states where super lice have been found.

“We encourage parents to be proactive and learn how to identify lice in their children’s hair,” said Jennifer Stiles, Disease Prevention Nurse, Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health. “The bad news is, children are at risk for lice because they share brushes, combs, hats, etc., the good news is, lice don’t carry disease.”

Signs of head lice include:

- Tickling feeling of something moving in the hair.
- Itching, caused by an allergic reaction to the bites.
- Sores on the head caused by scratching. These sores can sometimes become infected.

To get rid of the super lice, parents are urged to comb hair daily with a lice comb and use over-the-counter treatment twice. Treat the entire head and leave it on for a few hours; repeat a week later. If that doesn’t work, seek professional care. For more information on head lice and how to prevent or treat an infestation, visit our website at www.cghealth.com.

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