A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the United States. A lock ( ) or https:// means you've safely connected to the .gov website. Share sensitive information only on official, secure websites. If your child has symptoms of head lice infestation, examine their head, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck, for crawling lice and nits. If you find crawling lice or nits, examine all household members for head lice every 2 – 3 days. Treat anyone with live (crawling) lice or nits within ¼ inch or less of the scalp. Head lice information for schools You do not need to send students with head lice infestation home early from school. Students with lice can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after beginning appropriate treatment. Nits may stay in hair after treatment, but successful treatment will kill crawling lice. Both the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) advocate to discontinue "no-nit" policies (a child being free of nits before returning to school) for the following reasons: Follow and complete all treatment instructions and steps to successfully eliminate head lice. CDC does not make recommendations on a specific product or products to use to treat individuals with lice. Both over-the-counter and prescription products are available. Contact your doctor, pharmacist, or health department for additional information about which product they recommend. Reporting head lice Most health departments do not require reporting of head lice infestation. However, it is useful to share information with school nurses, teachers, parents of classmates, and others about contact with head lice to limit spread. Lice are parasites, or insects, found on people's heads and bodies, including the pubic area. Human lice survive by feeding on human blood. Infestation or infested person means that a person has lice. Languages Language Assistance
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