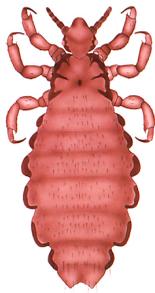
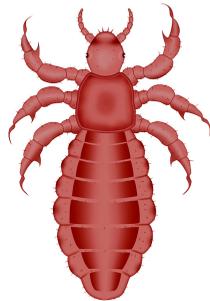


WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LICE TYPES

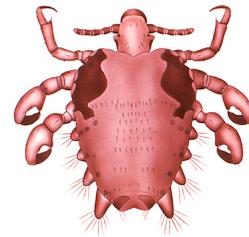
THERE ARE 3 UNIQUE SPECIES OF LICE THAT AFFECT HUMANS:



HEAD LOUSE



BODY LOUSE



PUBIC LOUSE

HEAD LICE

A human head louse (*Pediculus humanus capitis*) lives its entire life exclusively on the human head. Head lice do not live on other species such as dogs or cats, and they cannot live on inanimate objects, such as a couch, stuffed toys or hairbrush. In the rare event that a louse becomes dislodged from the human head, it dehydrates and will die within several hours.

The entire life span of a head louse is 30 days. A mature female louse can lay up to 10 eggs a day. The eggs are firmly cemented to a single hair shaft, very close to the scalp, where the proper heat and humidity allow the egg to develop. After 10 days, the egg will hatch and a nymph (young immature louse) is born. Over another 10 days, the nymphs go through 3 stages of maturation, called

“instars,” before becoming mature adults. Adults mate, lay eggs and the cycle of infestation continues.

With claws that are specially adapted to crawl along a human hair, almost all head lice infestations are the result of direct head-to-head contact. This contact allows a louse to crawl from the head of an infested person directly onto a new head. An infestation is not the result of poor personal hygiene or an unsanitary home, school or work environment. It is purely the result of opportunity.

Head lice are nothing more than a medical nuisance. They do not spread diseases. A head lice infestation is not associated with any long-term health consequences.

BODY LICE

A body louse (*Pediculus humanus corporis*) is different from head and pubic lice because it does not spend its entire life on the human body. Body lice live on clothes or bedding and move onto the body to feed on human blood 4-5 times a day.

The life cycle and expectancy of body lice is similar to that of head and pubic lice. Mature female body lice lay approximately 180 eggs in their lifetimes. This is twice as many as a mature adult head louse. Body lice cement their eggs to fabric in clothing, usually along the seams, so people are most often bitten around the neck, at the waistline, under the arms and in the groin—the areas where clothing seams are most likely to contact the skin.

Body lice are similar in appearance to human head lice,

but that's where the similarities end. Unlike head and pubic lice, body lice are an indication of poor hygiene and unsanitary conditions. They are often found in indigent populations, such as the homeless or those in war zones and refugee camps—people who have little to no opportunity for bathing, cleaning clothing or changing clothes regularly. Body lice are also found in overcrowded populations such as among incarcerated persons or those in emergency shelters. Sharing infested clothing or bedding leads to transmission.

Body lice are unique as they are the only lice that are a public health concern. Body lice carry diseases that can result in serious illnesses including Typhus, Trench Fever and Louse Borne Relapsing Fever.

PUBIC LICE

Pubic lice (*Phthirus pubis*) are also known as “crab lice,” resulting in the term “crabs” for an infestation. Crab lice live on coarse hair on the human body. They are most commonly found in pubic hair but can live on other areas of the body with coarse hair such as the axilla, chest, beard, mustache, eyebrows or eyelashes. Crab lice differ in appearance from head lice. They are smaller with have short, round, flat bodies. Their claws are wider and are specifically designed to grasp coarse hair that is sparser than the fine hair on the human head. Crab lice live only on the human body. They do not live on other animals. If dislodged from the body, they dehydrate and die within 1-2 days.

The crab louse has a similar life cycle and life expectancy as the head louse. A mature female lays up to 3 eggs per day. As with head lice, the eggs are firmly cemented to a

hair shaft close to the body, where the warm, moist environment allows development and proximity to their food source (human blood) once the eggs hatch. After the nymphs move through three stages of maturation, they become mature adults able to mate and lay eggs.

Pubic lice are contracted through intimate contact, usually sexual intercourse. While extremely rare with head lice, it's possible for a person to become infested with pubic lice from inanimate objects. Sharing under-clothes, bedding, towels or other personal items from an infested person could lead to an infestation.

As with head lice, pubic lice are simply a medical nuisance and do not spread diseases. An infestation will not lead to any long-term health consequences.