



The American International School · Vienna  
Salmansdorfer Strasse 47  
A-1190 Vienna, Austria

t. +43 1 40 13 20  
f. +43 1 40 13 25  
info@ais.at | www.ais.at

Dear Parents,

We would like you to know that a child/children in your child's class was found to have lice today, and it is very important for you to check your child's/children's head for lice today and over the next 2 weeks. **As per recent changes in AIS policy, any child found with lice at school must go to the lice treatment center (address at bottom of the page) and return with the certificate of treatment.**

Head lice are spread by direct contact with an infected person or object infected with the lice. This includes sharing hats, combs, brushes, scarves, jackets, blankets, sheets, pillowcases etc. Head lice have also been spread through contact with cloth covered seats on planes, trains and buses that are not cleaned between passengers.

Head lice are small tan or tan/black insects approximately 5mm (1/4 inch) in length. They live on the human head/scalp, and they lay eggs close to the scalp. The eggs are very small, about the size of the eye of a needle, and are gray or white in color. The eggs are usually found on the hair shaft and cannot be brushed away. The most common sign of head lice is itching of the head or neck. When checking your child for head lice, look for crawling lice in the hair, eggs (called nits) stuck to the hair, and scratch marks on the scalp or back of neck at the hairline.

Children who have lice are treated with lice shampoo called INFECTO PEDICUL (by Infectopharm) or APAR FORTE or one of two new brands called HEDRIN or NYDA. You can purchase lice shampoo at the local pharmacy (Apotheke).

The Lice Control Center in Vienna has the following recommendations:

- If you use APAR FORTE, leave it on the hair for 45 minutes. Please use 80% fat Mayonnaise on the hair, leave it on for one hour after the use of APAR FORTE which will condition the hair and smother any leftover live nits).
- You will also need a fine tooth comb (Straub Kamm) for combing the hair after washing. A comb is usually included with the shampoo package, but the metal lice combs available at the pharmacy are best. The comb does not remove nits; they must be manually removed. Children should be checked again 7-10 days after treatment, as the eggs usually only survive for 7 days.
- **PREVENTION SUGGESTION:** regular checking and some parents have recommended a special very mild shampoo from Rausch called **Weidenrinden Spezial Shampoo**.

If you have head lice at home, all clothing and bedding used in the 48 hour period before treatment should be washed in hot water and dried in a hot clothes dryer for at least 20 minutes. Objects that cannot be washed (such as stuffed toys, pillows, coats) should be stored in a plastic bag for 10 days. All furniture, carpets, mattresses and floors need to be vacuumed. Also, all hair combs, brushes and hair clips need to be soaked in hot water ( 60-70 C) for 10 minutes. Cloth hair bands should be placed in a plastic bag.

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between passengers. Some have noted that use of hair gel, mousse, or conditioner is thought to deter lice infection. Washing hair with vinegar is also a commonly used deterrent.

If you would like more information, please click on the links below.

Tips for LICE' on the AIS website:

[http://www.ais.at/uploaded/parents/health\\_information/tipsforlice.pdf](http://www.ais.at/uploaded/parents/health_information/tipsforlice.pdf)

**Hygiene Center Vienna:**

Hygienezentrum der Stadt Wien, MA 15 - Gesundheitsdienst der Stadt Wien

Rappachgasse 40, 1110 Wien

[http://www.wien.gv.at/sozialinfo/content/de/10/InstitutionDetail.do?it\\_1=2097352&senseid=164](http://www.wien.gv.at/sozialinfo/content/de/10/InstitutionDetail.do?it_1=2097352&senseid=164)

**Opening Hours:** Mon-Fri: 7:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **ATTENTION: MONDAY AND FRIDAY  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**Telephone: +43 1 4000-87880**

Kind regards,

Renee McCormack MS,RN, ANP

AIS Nurse