

## Important Information about BODY LICE



### What are body lice?

- Body lice are tiny insects that hide in unwashed clothing and bedding. They crawl onto the body to feed on blood. Adult body lice are light gray and are a little larger than a sesame seed.

### How do people get body lice?

- Body lice are spread in crowded and unsanitary living conditions. You can get body lice by close contact with a person who has lice or by wearing their clothes. You can also get body lice by lying on bedding that was used by someone with lice.

### What are the signs and symptoms?

- Severe itching.
- Red, raised dots or rash on the skin.
- Lice or lice eggs (nits) are seen in clothing or bedding seams. Occasionally, lice may be seen crawling or feeding on the skin.
- Sores or infections on the skin caused by scratching.
- Thick, dark skin patches, particularly around the waist area.

### How do I treat and stop the spread of body lice?

- Take a hot bath or shower regularly.
- Wash clothes and bedding in hot water and dry on hot cycle at least once per week.
- If washing does not help, see a doctor or nurse.

### Three Stages of Body Lice (pictures enlarged to show detail)

