Life Cycle of the Pubic Louse

1. Egg

After mating, a female lays individual eggs (called nits), gluing them to the hair shafts.

2. First instar nymph

After a week, the first instar nymph hatches and takes its first blood meal from a host.

3. Second instar nymph

The adult lives from three to four weeks. The entire life cycle takes place on the host. If removed the louse will die within 48 hours.

4. Third instar nymph

Lice are transferred from person to person primarily through sexual contact.

5. Adult louse

After 13 to 17 days the nymph passes through all three nymphal stages and becomes an adult louse.

Life cycle adapted from CDC
http://www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx