



Warts

Warts are skin growths caused by a virus. Common and flat warts are seen most often in younger children and plantar warts in school aged children.

If you think your child has warts:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- Children with warts do not need to stay home from school.
- For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or your local health department.

Parent/Guardian information

Symptoms

Common – Dome-shaped and have a rough appearance. Usually seen on the fingers, on the backs of the hands, and around or under the nails. They may be more common where your child has bitten fingernails or picked hangnails.

Plantar (foot) – Usually seen on the bottoms of the feet. Most of these warts flatten because the pressure of walking pushes them back into the skin. They can be very painful.

Flat – Smaller and smoother than other warts. They tend to grow in large numbers (20 to 100) at a time. They can grow anywhere on the body, but are usually found on the face and arms or legs of children.

If your child is infected, it may take several months to years before symptoms start.

Spread

- From person to person by close contact.
- By touching contaminated objects, such as locker room floors, showers, or pool decks.

Contagious period

Probably as long as the wart is present.

Call your health care provider

Your doctor will decide if treatment is needed.

Warts

Prevention

- Avoid biting your nails or picking your hangnails. Keep nails trimmed.
- Take care to keep feet and hands clean and dry. Do basic first aid when an injury (cut, scrape, etc.) occurs.
- Wear shoes like flip-flops or water sandals in locker rooms, showers, or on pool decks.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, razors, or nail clippers.
- Using a product that kills germs, clean and disinfect contaminated areas.

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Updated July 14, 2024

