

## WARTS

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

**CAUSE:** Human papillomavirus.

**SYMPTOMS:** **Common warts:** are dome-shaped and have a rough appearance. They usually grow on the fingers, on the backs of the hands, and around the nails but may be more common where skin is broken (e.g., fingernails bitten or hangnails picked). Black dots in a wart are produced by broken blood vessels.

**Flat warts:** are smaller and smoother than other warts. They tend to grow in large numbers (20 to 100) at a time and can grow anywhere. However, in children they are most common on the face. They are found in the beard area of men and on the legs of women.

**SPREAD:** Passed from person to person, sometimes indirectly from contaminated objects. The virus more easily enters the body through an area of skin that is moist, peeling, or cracked.

**INCUBATION:** It can take from several months to years for symptoms to begin.

**CONTAGIOUS PERIOD:** Unknown; probably as long as the wart is present.

**EXCLUSION:** None.

**DIAGNOSIS:** Call your healthcare provider.

**TREATMENT:** Call your healthcare provider to discuss the appropriate treatment for the kind of wart you have.

**PREVENTION/CONTROL:**

1. DO NOT bite your nails or hangnails. Keep nails trimmed and hands dry.
2. Perform first aid when injuries occur.

For more information, you or your healthcare provider may call Hennepin County Community Health Department at (952) 351-5230, or call your local health department.