

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.

CAUSE

Human papillomavirus.

SYMPTOMS

Common - 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., bitten fingernails or picked hangnails). Black dots in a wart are produced by broken blood vessels.

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. They may also have black dots.

Flat - 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, such as locker room floors, showers, or pool decks. 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.

DIAGNOSIS

Recommend parents/guardians call their healthcare provider.

EXCLUSION

Childcare and School: None.

TREATMENT

Based on the type of wart.

PREVENTION/CONTROL

- Discourage children from biting their nails or picking their hangnails.

- Encourage students to do basic first aid when they have an injury (e.g., cut or scrape), if appropriate for age group.
- Encourage children to wear shower shoes (e.g., flip-flops or water sandals) in locker rooms and showers or on pool decks.
- DO NOT allow sharing personal items such as razors or nail clippers.

For more information, please contact your local health department.

[Southern Nevada Health District](#) (Clark County) 775-759-1300 (24 hours)

[Northern Nevada Public Health](#) (Washoe County) 775-328-2447 (24 hours)

[Carson City Health & Human Services](#) (Carson City, Douglas, Lyon Counties) 775-887-2190 (24 hours)

[Division of Public and Behavioral Health](#) (All other Counties) 775-400-0333 (24 hours)

Email: dpbhepi@health.nv.gov