

Warts

Warts are skin growths that are usually harmless. They look like thickened skin that is clearly different from the skin around them. They are usually round or oval shaped. Warts are caused by a virus (called the human papillomavirus) that enters the skin through scratches or other skin damage.

There are several types of warts and they can appear in different places on the body. Mostly, there are only 1 or 2 warts, but sometimes there can be a lot in one area.

How it spreads

Warts can spread to other people, usually from skin-to-skin contact with another person. Picking or scratching warts can mean the warts are spread to other parts of the infected person's body.

Warts can also be spread by touching contaminated surfaces.

Exclusion period

Not excluded – people with warts can attend the service.

Actions for educators and other staff

Ensure staff and children have good hand hygiene.

Ensure staff use appropriate cleaning practices, as described in the *Staying healthy* guidelines.

Actions for parents and carers

Try to stop your child picking or scratching the warts.

Make sure your child washes their hands thoroughly and often, especially if they touch the warts.

More information about warts

See healthdirect for more information on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of warts (healthdirect.gov.au/wart-treatments).

To find out if a child needs medical help:

- use the online symptom checker (healthdirect.gov.au/symptom-checker)
- speak to a registered nurse by calling the 24-hour health advice hotline on 1800 022 222.