

From WebMD

<http://www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/guide/staph-infection-cellulitis#1>

What Is a Staph Infection of the Skin?

A [staph infection](#) is caused by a *Staphylococcus* (or "staph") bacteria. Actually, about 25% of people normally carry staph in the nose, [mouth](#), genitals, or anal area, and don't have symptoms of an infection. The [foot](#) is also very prone to picking up bacteria from the floor. The infection often begins with a little cut, which gets infected with bacteria. This can look like honey-yellow crusting on the [skin](#).

These [staph infections](#) range from a simple boil to antibiotic-resistant infections to flesh-eating infections. The difference between all these is the strength of the infection, how deep it goes, how fast it spreads, and how treatable it is with [antibiotics](#). The antibiotic-resistant infections are more common in North America, because of our overuse of [antibiotics](#).

One type of [staph infection](#) that involves skin is called [cellulitis](#) and affects the skin's deeper layers. It is treatable with antibiotics.

This type of infection is very common in the general population -- and more common and more severe in people with weak immune systems. People who have [diabetes](#) or weakened immunity are particularly prone to developing cellulitis.

What Are the Symptoms of a Staph Infection of the Skin?

Staph cellulitis usually begins as a small area of tenderness, swelling, and redness. Sometimes it begins with an open sore. Other times, there is no obvious break in the skin at all.

The signs of cellulitis are those of any inflammation -- redness, warmth, swelling, and pain. Any skin sore or ulcer that has these signs may be developing cellulitis. If the staph infection spreads, the person may develop a fever, sometimes with chills and sweats, as well as swelling in the area.

Other staph infections of the skin include [impetigo](#), a painful [rash](#) that is contagious, boils, and in babies and young children, staphylococcal [scalded skin syndrome](#), which causes [rash](#), [blisters](#), and fever.