

BOILS

Prevention: Wash skin daily with soap and water. Keep fingernails short and clean. Wash hands thoroughly before and after touching and dressing the boils. Eat fruit and vegetables every day. Drink water.



Early signs

Red bump or pimple with red skin around it. Can have white or yellow pus in the centre.

Might be itchy or a bit painful.

A large boil is called an abscess.

If it gets worse

See a doctor if:

- the boil gets larger and more painful
- more boils appear
- the boil lasts more than one week
- redness spreads around the boil
- red streaks start to appear on the skin around the boil
- your child gets boils often
- your child seems unwell or has a fever

What to do

Go to the doctor immediately if a boil is near your child's eye.

Check and clean boils every day.

Soak the boil in warm water for 20 minutes or cover with a towel soaked in warm water.

If the boil bursts, wipe away pus and blood with a tissue.

Wash and dry hands before and after touching the boil.

Change the dressings every day.

How is it spread?

- Pus (thick yellow/brown ooze) or blood from a boil getting on to the skin can cause more boils
- Squeezing can cause boils to spread