



Although ear piercings are more common and can be less risky than other body piercings, they can still cause complications if not handled safely. For anyone thinking about getting their ears pierced, dermatologists urge people to follow these steps to avoid infection.

- ✓ **Always wash your hands before touching newly pierced ears.**
- ✓ **Leave the earrings in your ears for at least six weeks or more, even at night.** Removing the starter earrings too early may cause the piercings to close.
- ✓ **Regularly wash your/your child's ears with soap and water.** Carefully do this at least once a day to avoid infection.
- ✓ **Twist the earrings a few times daily.** This will help keep the pierced holes open.
- ✓ **Put rubbing alcohol on your/your child's ears.** Using a cotton ball or pad dipped in rubbing alcohol, gently clean the skin around the piercings twice a day to keep away germs and prevent scabbing. You may also apply a thin coat of petroleum jelly around the opening.

**After piercing your/your child's ears, keep an eye on them to make sure they do not get sore, red or puffy and the holes do not ooze yellowish liquid, if any of this occurs the piercing could be infected! Please call us immediately if you notice any signs of infection on your/your child's newly pierced ears.**