PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM CELLULITIS

Cellulitis is a skin infection that happens when bacteria (germs) enter the skin through a cut, bite, or scratch. These are common germs that are on the skin of most people. They usually don't cause a problem. However, when there is a break in the skin normal germs can enter the body and cause cellulitis. If it is not treated, cellulitis can spread quickly throughout the body causing one to become very sick. There is a newer form of bacteria called MRSA that can enter the body even if there isn't a sore on the skin.

Call Your Doctor Right Away if You See These Symptoms

- An area on the skin that is red, swollen, and painful
- When the area is sore and warmer than the areas of skin around it
- If there is a rash, blisters, or red streaks coming from a bite, scratch, or cut
- Loss of hair around the infected area
- Fever, headache, or muscle aches
- Feeling more tired and weak than usual
- Nausea and vomiting along with the infection

What is the Treatment for Cellulitis?

- Probably antibiotics. Take it exactly as the doctor says. Finish it even if feeling better.
- The doctor may give something to help the pain.
- If pus or a boil is present, it may require drainage.

Prevention is our Best Defense

- Wash hands often and clean body regularly.
- Keep cuts, scrapes, and sores clean and covered until they are healed.
- Don't touch other people's sores.
- Don't share personal items such as towels, razors, clothing, and sports equipment.
- Treat bites and sores with an antibiotic ointment for protection.
- Keep an eye on a bite or cut to see if it becomes red or painful.
- Wash towels and sheets in hot water if anyone in the family has a sore.
- For families who have had problems with skin infections, especially MRSA, a weekly bath with ¼ c. bleach in a **full** tub of water can prevent getting it again.

With treatment, the symptoms will usually go away within a few days. Call your doctor if symptoms get worse or the symptoms don't show improvement within two days.