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Staphylococcus

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Staphylococcus*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C62583.

A genus of nonmotile, nonspore-forming, aerobic to facultatively anaerobic bacteria containing Gram-positive, spherical cells, 0.5-1.5 microns in diameter, which divide in more than one plane to form irregular clusters. Coagulase-positive strains produce a variety of toxins and are therefore potentially pathogenic and may cause food poisoning. They are found on the skin, in skin glands, on the nasal and other mucous membranes of warm-blooded animals, and in various food products. The type species is *Staphylococcus aureus*.