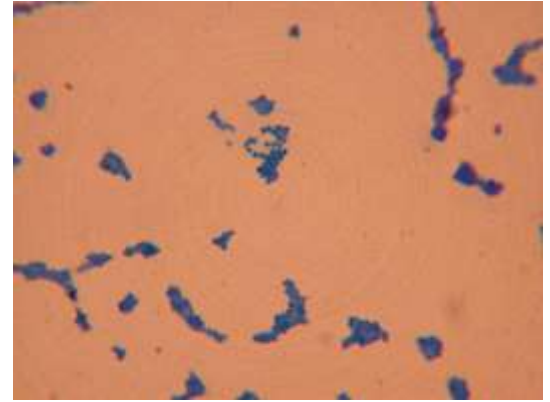


## Staphylococcus Genus Characteristics

*Staphylococcus* species are normal flora widespread over the body surface. They are also important pathogens. Some of the most common diseases caused by *Staphylococcus* species include: impetigo, toxic shock syndrome, bacteremia, endocarditis, folliculitis furuncle (boils), and osteomyelitis (bone abscesses). Many species of *Staphylococcus* have the ability to form biofilms which can then colonize structures such as medical catheters, stents, heart valves, prostheses, shunts, and valves.



The clinically significant species are generally separated into coagulase-positive staphs (*S. aureus*) and coagulase-negative (CoNS) staphs (*S. epidermidis*, *S. haemolyticus*, and *S. saprophyticus*).

- Gram positive cocci (single, in pairs, or irregular grape-like clusters)
- 0.5-1.5µm in diameter
- Non Motile
- Non spore-forming
- Facultative anaerobes
- High salt tolerance (up to 10% NaCl)
- Catalase positive (usually)
- Capsule variable - usually negative

The table below indicates the results of our strains of bacteria and how they respond to classical media tests. Click on a link to an organism to learn more about that specific organism. Click on a link to a media test to learn more about that specific media test. Click on a link to a specific result to see a picture and a more elaborate description of the reaction.

	<a href="#">Staphylococcus aureus</a>	<a href="#">Staphylococcus epidermidis</a>	<a href="#">Staphylococcus haemolyticus</a>	<a href="#">Staphylococcus saprophyticus</a>	<a href="#">Staphylococcus xylosum</a>
<a href="#">Macromorphology</a>	Creamy/Tan Medium	Creamy/Tan Pinpoint	White Small	Creamy/Tan Wavy Margin	Yellow/Orange Medium
<a href="#">FTM</a>	Facultative Anaerobe	Facultative Anaerobe	Facultative Anaerobe	Facultative Anaerobe	Facultative Anaerobe
<a href="#">Motility</a>	Non Motile	Non Motile	Non Motile	Non Motile	Non Motile
<a href="#">Catalase</a>	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
<a href="#">Oxidase</a>	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
<a href="#">TGA</a>	<a href="#">Black Colonies</a>	<a href="#">Gray Colonies Minimal Growth</a>	<a href="#">Gray Colonies Minimal Growth</a>	<a href="#">Gray Colonies</a>	<a href="#">Gray/Black Colonies</a>
<a href="#">Coagulase</a>	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
<a href="#">MSA</a>	<a href="#">Colorless Colonies Yellow Media</a>	<a href="#">Colorless/Pink Colonies Pink Media</a>	<a href="#">Colorless/Pink Colonies Pink Media</a>	<a href="#">Colorless Colonies Yellow Media</a>	<a href="#">Colorless Colonies Yellow Media</a>
<a href="#">Novobiocin</a>	Susceptible	Susceptible	Susceptible	Resistant	Resistant
<a href="#">Hemolysis</a>	<a href="#">Alpha Prime or Beta Hemolysis</a>	<a href="#">Alpha or Alpha Prime Hemolysis</a>	<a href="#">Alpha Prime or Beta Hemolysis</a>	<a href="#">Alpha Hemolysis</a>	<a href="#">Alpha Hemolysis</a>

Table of Probable Results for Staphylococcus Organisms