Ear Infection

Otitis external (outer) or media (inner)

What to know...what to do:

- **Otitis externa or swimmer’s ear** is an infection of the outer ear and the ear canal.
- An outer ear infection may produce pain or itching in the outer portion of the ear, swelling of the ear or a stuffy plugged sensation.
- Outer ear infection is usually treated with antibiotic ear drops and over the counter pain medicine to relieve the pain.
- **Otitis media or middle ear** infection is not contagious person to person but usually follows an upper respiratory infection.
- Otitis media causes ear pain, feeling of fullness, hearing loss, fever and sometimes drainage from the ear.
- Middle ear infections may be viral or bacterial.
- Treatment is usually symptomatic; ear analgesic drops to control pain, decongestant to minimize pressure and occasionally antibiotics if bacterial infection is suspected.

Visit the Welty Health Center if...

- Fever over 100 degrees
- Earache that persists longer than 2 days, despite treatment.
- Swelling around the ear
- Twitching of the face muscles.