

What is the risk?

- Petting zoos, fairs and farm tours provide opportunities for young and old alike to learn about animals and agriculture.
- However, special precautions need to be taken to prevent illness.
- Agricultural fairs and petting zoos pose a potential public health hazard by bringing the general public into direct contact with animals which can carry a variety of pathogens that are capable of causing disease in humans.
- Pathogens may live in the intestines of farm animals and can be passed in animal manure.
- Animals infected with these pathogens may or may not appear ill.
- Humans may become ill from contaminated food and water or from contact with animals or their environment.
- Very young children, the elderly, pregnant women, and persons with weak immune systems should be especially careful to follow the recommendations since they are at higher risk for serious infections.
- Children age 5 and younger should have adult oversight when washing their hands and close supervision during the visits to make sure hand-to-mouth activities are not occurring in animal contact areas.



Even healthy animals can carry harmful germs.

More on water supply...

- ◆ Running water should be of high enough volume and pressure to remove soil from hands.
- ◆ Volume and pressure might be greatly reduced if the water supply is furnished from a holding tank.
- ◆ Therefore, a permanent pressured water supply is preferable.
- ◆ Communal basins, where water is used by more than one person, do not constitute adequate hand-washing facilities.

About hand sanitizers...

- ◆ Hand sanitizers may be better than nothing at all, but adequate hand washing is advised.
- ◆ Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are effective against many harmful bacteria, but not some bacteria and certain viruses.
- ◆ Baby wipes and cleaning wipes ARE NOT the same as hand sanitizers
- ◆ Before eating, hands should be scrubbed with soap and warm water for 30 seconds.

References:

Recommendations to Reduce the Risk of Disease Transmission From Animals to Humans at Petting Zoos, Fairs and Other Animal Exhibits. Washington State Department of Health. Available at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/RecommendationsPettingZoo.pdf>

Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2005. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5404.pdf>

Enjoy the fair but don't forget to wash your hands before you eat! Val Hillers, PhD, RD. Washington State University Food Extension Specialist. Available at: http://4h.wsu.edu/VTM/mod04/mod4_03.pdf

Preventing Fair and Petting Zoo Outbreaks. Marler Clark, Attorneys at Law. Available at: <http://www.fair-safety.com/preventing-outbreaks.htm>



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It's In Your Hands!



Public Health & Animal Exhibits

Your Role In Protecting the Public



To reduce the potential for illness, it is your responsibility as an animal exhibitor to provide proper hand washing stations and a protective environment for visitors.

Hand Washing Stations

- Supplied with warm, running water. If only cold water is available, a liquid soap that lathers easily in cold water needs to be provided.
- Supplied with liquid soap dispensed by a hand or foot pump. Soap does not need to be antimicrobial.
- Supplied with disposable paper towels.
- Accessible and sufficient for the maximum anticipated attendance.
- Designed to be used by children, adults, and those with disabilities.
- Conveniently located by animal and food/eating areas.
- Routinely cleaned and restocked with towels and soap.
- Designed so that both hands are free for hand washing.
- If water is not available, hand sanitizer may be used. Hands should be scrubbed with soap and warm water for 30 seconds before eating or putting hands in mouth.

Cleaning & Disinfection

- Remove and dispose of animal manure promptly and appropriately.
- Replace bedding at least daily, more often if needed
- Clean visible manure from any surface with soap and water as soon as possible
- Clean fencing and rails daily with soap and water or when grossly visibly contaminated with manure
- Disinfect fencing and rails after cleaning (1 part bleach/10 parts water or Lysol following container directions)

Animals

- Young cattle, sheep, goats and poultry present a greater risk of transmitting infections to humans than other animals
- Do not display ill animals or those known to be positive for infectious agents
- Prevent contact with manure, water troughs, and animals that should not be touched by providing barriers and controlling access to areas where visitors should not go.

Adult Supervision

- Require adequate adult supervision for children from your visitors or provide trained staff for each group of visitors
- Remind your adult visitors of these recommendations
- Young children need help with hand washing.



“Hand washing is the single most important means of preventing the spreading of infection.”

Centers for Disease

Control—Atlanta, GA

Eating

- Locate eating areas away from animal areas.
- Exclude all animals from eating areas.
- Keep eating areas clean.
- Provide only an approved water source for drinking water.
- Do not serve unpasteurized milk or milk products to visitors.

Provide Information to Visitors

Post signs in visible locations, especially near the animals and the eating areas, and **verbally remind visitors:**

- ▶ Wash hands with soap and water after touching animals or animal environment
- ▶ Wash hands with soap and water before eating
- ▶ Avoid touching your face or mouth before washing hands
- ▶ Do not eat or drink while in the animal area
- ▶ Do not bring toys, pacifiers, or baby bottles into the animal area.