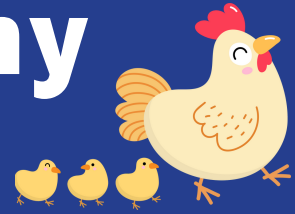


# How to Stay Healthy at Animal Exhibits



Protect yourself from diseases like influenza (flu), *E. coli* and *Salmonella*!

Petting zoos and fairs give us exciting opportunities to interact with animals. These experiences are educational and fun, but it's important to remember that animals sometimes carry harmful germs that can make us sick. Here's what you can do to keep yourself and your family healthy and safe while visiting animal exhibits.



## Wash your hands often

- Wash your hands with soap and water right after leaving the animal area, even if you didn't touch the animals or if you wore gloves.
- If running water and soap are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol and wash your hands as soon as a sink is available.



## Keep food and animals separate

- Avoid eating, drinking or putting things in your mouth in the animal area.
- Don't share your food with the animals.



**Indiana**  
Department  
of  
**Health**



## Keep children safe around animals

Young children are more likely to get sick from harmful germs that animals can carry. It is recommended that children 5 years of age and younger not have contact with reptiles, amphibians, and live poultry, including baby chicks and ducklings because these animals are commonly associated with outbreaks of disease.

- Always supervise children around animals.
- Avoid bringing items like strollers, pacifiers, cups or toys into the animal area.
- Never allow children to put their thumbs, fingers, or objects (like pacifiers) in their mouths when they're around animals or in an animal area.
- Encourage and supervise handwashing.

## Did you know? Pigs can carry influenza (flu).

People at high risk of serious flu complications should avoid contact with pigs and should not enter swine barns.

These groups include:

- Children younger than 5 years
- People older than 65 years
- Pregnant women
- People with certain long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, weakened immune systems, and neurological or neurodevelopmental conditions.



For more information, visit:

<https://on.in.gov/ZoonoticDiseasePrevention>

