

# Recommendations for owners and operators of Agricultural Fairs, Zoos, Petting Zoos and Farms

Visits to farms, agricultural fairs and petting zoos provide an enjoyable experience and play a valuable role in educating children about animals. Unfortunately there are increasing reports of illness due to bacteria commonly associated with animals (E. coli, Campylobacter, Salmonella, etc.) in children after such visits. Although eliminating all risk from contact with animals may not be achievable, this information provides recommendations to minimize disease transmission and injury.

## Design of event

- ensure animal area is separate from eating areas
- food/beverage should be prepared, stored, served and consumed only in the designated area
- use signs to distinguish the animal area from the food area
- control the flow of people; route the visitors toward the hand washing facilities upon leaving the animal area
- manage visitor contact with manure – ensure visitor areas are free from manure and tools used for manure removal are stored in a designated area restricted from visitor access
- clean and disinfect gates, animal pens and divisions regularly
- ensure animal feed provided for visitors to feed the animals is dispensed into an appropriate container; do not use ice cream cones
- ensure hand washing facilities are accessible to visitors upon leaving the animal area and prior to entering the designated eating area
- where hand washing facilities are not available provide an adequate amount of hand sanitizer
- post signage advising visitors:
  1. no food/beverage, toys, use of pacifiers/baby bottles/sippy cups are permitted in the animal area
  2. to wash their hands at the exit of the animal area and the entrance of the eating area
  3. to avoid hand to mouth contact (thumb-sucking) while in the animal area



## Animal Controls

- do not allow visitors to kiss the animals or put their mouth on the animal enclosure
- exclude sick, aggressive or stressed animals
- clean manure regularly and replace bedding as needed
- if an animal bite occurs advise the parent to consult a healthcare provider

## Educational info

- provide proper supervision in animal area to ensure appropriate human to animal interaction and to reduce the risk of exposure
- ensure staff are appropriately trained about preventing disease transmission from animals to humans and are able to relay this information to visitors
- provide risk information to visitors in a variety of ways (signage, brochures, verbal instructions, etc.)

## More information

- do not serve unpasteurized dairy products to the public
- if the animal area is to be used for public events (wedding, dance), these areas should be cleaned and disinfected prior to the event in order to reduce the risk of disease transmission.
- for more information on keeping your visitors healthy, follow [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5805a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5805a1.htm)

## Most Important

- Everyone should wash their hands thoroughly
  - After touching the animals
  - After leaving the animal areas
  - Before eating

### For Your Safety

**DO NOT bring these items into the animal area**



**Remember to wash your hands**

### To protect your children and yourself

## Wash Your Hands



**Use hand-sanitizer if soap and warm water are not available**