

Keep Your Family Safe Around Flocks

Backyard poultry can carry germs that can make you and your children sick, even if the birds appear healthy. Below are some steps to help you stay safe.



Wash your hands

- Wash your hands and your kids' hands with soap and water immediately after touching backyard poultry, their eggs, or anything in the area where they live and roam.
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Be safe around backyard flocks

- Don't kiss or snuggle backyard poultry, and don't eat or drink around them. This can spread *Salmonella* germs to your mouth and make you and your kids sick.
- Keep your backyard flock and the supplies you use to care for them outside of the house. Also clean the supplies outside the house.
- Children under 5, adults over 65, and people with weakened immune systems should not handle or touch chicks, ducklings, or other backyard poultry.



Supervise kids around flocks

- Always supervise children around backyard poultry and make sure they wash their hands afterward.



Handle eggs safely

- Collect eggs often. Eggs that sit in the nest can become dirty or break.
- Rub off dirt on eggs with fine sandpaper, a brush, or a cloth. Don't wash eggs because colder water can pull germs into the egg.
- Refrigerate eggs to keep them fresh and slow the growth of germs.
- Cook eggs until both the yolk and white are firm. Cook egg dishes to an internal temperature of 160°F to kill all germs.



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HEALTHY PEOPLE
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