

Tips for staying healthy at petting zoos

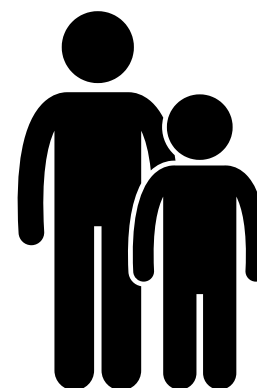


Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Hand washing is the most important step to prevent disease. Everyone should wash their hands immediately after leaving the animal area, **even if you didn't touch the animals!**

Young children should always be supervised around animals and when washing their hands. Injuries and **illnesses have occurred from being near animals** and their environment.



People should not eat or drink in animal areas. Young children should be **prevented from hand-to-mouth activities** (nail biting, thumb sucking, etc.).

*Animals that appear healthy can still **spread harmful germs** that can make people sick.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Division of Epidemiology
617-983-6800

For questions and information regarding human exposures for animals, including human illness suspected to be of animal origin

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Division of Animal Health
617-626-1794

For questions and information regarding the law and policies concerning domesticated animals including quarantines and policies about rabies vaccinations.