

# Animals and School: What Chaperones Need to Know

*Kids can safely learn about and have fun around animals.*

## Happy and healthy animals can still harm people.

- Animals can spread germs that cause life-threatening infections.
- Injuries can happen when people are near animals and their surroundings.
- People at higher risk for getting sick from animals include young children, pregnant women, adults older than 65, and people with weakened immune systems.



## You can help keep students safe!

### Watch students closely while around animals.

Students can be injured or ingest germs by putting hands or other objects in their mouths when around animals.



### Wait to eat and drink.

Don't allow food or beverages in animal areas or before handwashing.

### Supervise handwashing.

Make sure each person washes their hands with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds after exiting animal areas, even if they did not touch an animal. If soap and running water are not available, use hand sanitizer until they are.



Tennessee Department of Health Authorization No. 353026.