

# Animals and School: What Families 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 your family safe!



### Make sure your child washes their hands.

Teach your child how to wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Remind them to wash their hands after being around animals and before eating or drinking.

### Immediately remove and clean shoes.

Shoes, strollers, wheelchairs, and other objects can carry germs from the animal area into your home. Clean all items before bringing them inside.



### Call your doctor if sick.

If your child or other family member becomes sick after being near animals, especially with diarrhea or abdominal pain, please tell your healthcare provider.



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