

# Keeping you and your children safe from infection visiting farms & petting zoo

## 1. VISITING A FARM OR PETTING ZOO

**Visiting** a farm, animal attraction or petting zoo is lots of fun, but it's important to remember that animals can carry infections that can be harmful to people. Common types of illness include infection with cryptosporidium parvum, e.coli O157 and salmonella.

**All** these bacteria live in the gut of the animals and infections are caused either by touching animals in the petting and feeding areas or coming into contact with animal droppings on contaminated surfaces.

**These** harmful bacteria can get accidentally passed to your mouth by putting hands on faces or fingers in mouths before washing them thoroughly. It only takes a small number of the bacteria to cause infection.



## 2. PREVENTING INFECTION

**The** best way to stay safe is to practice good hygiene during and after your visit.

**Wash** your hands thoroughly with soap and water and avoid touching your mouth

## 3. FOLLOW THESE DO'S AND DON'TS TO KEEP SAFE

Do <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DON'T <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DO</b> Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after you have touched animals, fences, or other surfaces in animal areas	<b>Do not</b> put hands on faces or fingers in mouths while petting animals or walking round the farm
<b>DO</b> Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before eating or drinking	<b>Do not</b> kiss farm animals or allow children to put their faces close to animals
<b>DO</b> remove and clean boots or shoes that might have become soiled and clean pushchair wheels. Then wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water	<b>Do not</b> eat or drink while touching animals or walking round the farm. This includes not eating sweets, crisps or chewing gum
<b>DO</b> supervise children closely to ensure that they wash their hands thoroughly	<b>Do not</b> eat anything that has fallen on the floor
<b>DO</b> eat and drink in picnic areas or cafes only	<b>Do not</b> use gels or wipes instead of washing hands with soap and water. Gels and wipes do not remove bugs in dirt

## 4. IF YOU ARE PREGNANT

**Pregnant** women need to take particular care handling pregnant sheep or lambs as infections acquired from these animals can be harmful to them and the unborn baby

## 5. What to do if you are unwell after a visit

**If** you feel unwell or having symptoms such as being sick or diarrhoea within 2 weeks of visiting a farm - contact your GP or call NHS 111

**If** you have bloody diarrhoea - seek immediate emergency medical attention