General Information

♦ Animals, especially those that are young and ill, may carry microorganisms that can cause diarrhea and other gastrointestinal symptoms in humans.
♦ These microorganisms are shed in an animal’s feces and, sometimes, saliva. After shedding, they may also survive in an animal’s environment.
♦ Organisms of concern include Salmonella, Campylobacter, E. coli and Cryptosporidium parvum.
♦ Only touch or feed animals in designated areas. Always ask owners for permission to touch exhibited animals.

**Hand to mouth contact after touching animals and their environment is a health risk.**
**Always wash hands prior to eating.**

Prevention is easy. Follow these recommendations:

♦ **Always** wash hands with soap and running water before eating.
♦ Wash hands with soap and water after touching animals or their environment.
♦ Do **NOT** use baby wipes in place of handwashing as they do not kill germs like *E. coli* O157:H7.
♦ Avoid hand to mouth activities in livestock areas, such as eating, smoking, nail biting, carrying toys, pacifiers, etc.
♦ Do **not** drink raw milk.
♦ High risk individuals (children less than 5, elderly, pregnant and immune compromised people) should use heightened precautions.
♦ If you have additional questions about specific symptoms, risks or infections, contact your health care professional or your Public Health Agency.