

## Safety Advisory

We look forward to seeing you at the zoo!

Interacting with animals is a wonderful experience, both for children and adults. However, healthy animals carry bacteria and other organisms that can sicken people who come in contact with them. It is important that visitors take precautions, which are summarized below:

### Hand-washing

Hand-washing with soap and water is the most important measure in preventing illness. Hands should be washed after leaving animal areas (regardless if animal contact occurred) and before eating in the non-animal areas.

Adults should supervise children with hand-washing.

### Behaviors to Avoid

During contact with an animal a person's hands can pick up bacteria or other organisms. If these dirty hands come in contact with the mouth, the person might ingest the organisms and become sick. When in animal areas, take the following precautions:

- Don't eat or drink; eating and drinking should occur in designated non-animal areas. Smoking should not occur in animal areas.
- Supervise young children closely to avoid hand-to-mouth behaviors (such as thumb-sucking). Toys, pacifiers, spill-proof cups and baby bottles are not allowed in animal-contact areas.

### Populations at High Risk

Some people are at a higher risk of getting sick from bacteria carried by animals, including:

- Young children (less than five years old)
- Older adults
- Pregnant women
- Persons who are mentally impaired
- Persons with compromised immune systems

Persons at a higher risk should take heightened precautions, including:

- Thorough and frequent hand-washing
- Considering avoiding contact with animals and their environment (pens, bedding, manure)
- Avoiding animals that are at risk of spreading disease, such as young ruminants (goats), young poultry, reptiles and amphibians