

# HEALTHY FAMILIES AND FLOCKS

Backyard poultry, such as chicken, ducks, geese, and turkeys, often carry harmful germs. You can get sick from touching your backyard poultry or anything in their environment and then touching your mouth or food and swallowing the germs.

## HANDLE BIRDS SAFELY



- Always wash your hands with soap and water right after touching backyard poultry or anything in the area where they live and roam.
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.
- Adults should supervise handwashing for young children.
- Do not snuggle or kiss the birds, touch your mouth, or eat or drink around backyard poultry.
- Children younger than 5 years old, people with weakened immune systems, and people 65 years of age and older are at more risk for serious illness caused by diseases spread between poultry and people.

## SAFELY CLEAN COOPS

- Clean poultry equipment and supplies outside. This includes cages, feed or water containers, and anything used to care for the poultry.
- Set aside a pair of shoes to wear while taking care of poultry and keep those shoes outside of the house.



## POULTRY BELONG OUTSIDE

- Do not let backyard poultry inside the house, especially in kitchens.
- Do not let backyard poultry in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored.
- Do not bring chicks, ducklings, and other backyard poultry to schools, childcare centers, or nursing homes.



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

**Have a Backyard Flock? Don't Wing It.**  
Visit [www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets)  
for more information