



HANDWASHING AFTER ANIMAL CONTACT



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?



Whether you live on a farm or go visit a petting zoo, there are many ways to interact with the animals around you. When visiting animals or their environment, it is important to remember that animals have germs, which they can spread to us. These germs can make us sick. To avoid getting sick, everyone should wash their hands after having any contact with animals.



WHO SHOULD WASH THEIR HANDS?



Everyone should wash their hands! However, the following groups should take special care around animal exhibits and make sure to wash their hands thoroughly:

- Young children
- Older people
- People with weakened immune systems



WHEN TO WASH YOUR HANDS?



- After touching animals or their living area
- After leaving the animal area
- After taking off clothes or shoes that were worn in areas where animals were present
- After going to the bathroom
- Before preparing foods, eating, or drinking

HOW TO WASH YOUR HANDS?



1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), and apply soap.
2. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands for at least **20 seconds**. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water. Let the water run back into the sink, not down to your elbows.
5. **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

