General Information:

- Animals, especially those that are young and ill, may carry harmful microorganisms (germs) that can cause diarrhea and other gastrointestinal symptoms in humans.
- These germs are shed in an animal’s feces and sometimes in saliva. After shedding, they may also survive in an animal’s environment (such as railings, feed and water containers).
- Organisms of concern include: Salmonella, Campylobacter, E. coli and Cryptosporidium.
- Only touch or feed animals in designated areas. Always ask the owner’s permission before touching exhibited animals.
- Do not touch animals in isolation areas.

Follow These Prevention Recommendations:

- Wash hands with soap and running water after feeding or touching animals.
- Neither baby wipes nor alcohol-based hand sanitizers are recommended.
- Avoid hand-to-mouth activities in livestock areas such as eating, smoking, nail-biting, carrying toys, pacifiers, baby bottles, etc.
- Do not eat undercooked meat or drink raw milk.
- High-risk individuals (children under 5 years of age, 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.

Remember:

- No Hand-to-Mouth contact after touching animals and their environment.
- Always wash hands prior to eating.