

# Wash Your Hands!

## A tried-and-true method for fighting germs

The summer brings a host of opportunities for human-animal contact—petting zoos, farms, circuses, and wildlife exhibitions. Children have a lot to learn from engaging with animals in a proper setting, and fear of *E. coli* and other infectious diseases should not dissuade families from taking advantage of entertaining and educational experiences.

According to experts, the most powerful method for preventing transmission of disease through human-animal contact is vigilant hand washing in a properly supervised and managed setting.

Parents and facilitators should require children and adults alike to properly cleanse hands and wrists after all contact with animals and animal surroundings.

Fact is, hand washing greatly reduces the risk of exposure to all kinds of infections, not just those related to farm animals.

*This message is from the*  
Florida Department of  
Agriculture and  
Consumer Services,  
CHARLES H. BRONSON,  
COMMISSIONER

A young girl with brown hair, wearing a dark blue tank top, is standing in a garden and washing her hands at a red hand pump. Water is spraying from the pump's spout onto her hands. The pump is mounted on a wooden base and is surrounded by large, smooth, light-colored rocks. The background is a lush green garden with various plants and flowers.

To learn more about maintaining a properly supervised and managed setting, or for more information about ensuring your family's safety while visiting a facility that hosts farm animals...  
Call 850-410-0900 or visit: [www.doacs.state.fl.us](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us).