



# Staying Safe at Deen City Farm

We want our farm to be an enjoyable, safe and educational experience for all. Farm animals can carry infections that can be harmful to people, especially children, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and the elderly and vulnerable, so please follow our safety guidelines below, and all signs and staff instructions when you are on our farm too. Thank you!

## DO NOT:



- Put fingers in your mouth while petting animals or walking around the farm.
- Kiss farm animals or put your face close to the animals.
- Eat or drink anything near the animals.
- Eat anything that has fallen on the floor or reuse dummies until they have been cleaned.
- Use hand gels or wipes instead of the handwashing stations - Antibacterial hand gel does not kill dangerous bacteria. Please see below for more information on E.coli 0157.
- Pick up, chase, shout or tease the animals.
- Put your fingers near the animals' mouths. They can peck and bite.

## DO:



- Use hot water and soap to wash your hands after you have touched the animals, fences or other surfaces in animal areas.
- Eat and drink in designated areas only, such as the Cafe or picnic area.
- Dry your hands thoroughly after washing. (Please see below for more information on E.coli 0157).
- Wash all footwear and pushchair/scooter wheels when you get home.
- Wash your hands after removing footwear that has been worn on the farm.
- Take care of slipping or tripping as some of the paths are wet and uneven.
- Supervise children to check they are not getting too close to the animals.
- Ensure children avoid putting fingers in their mouths or touching their faces.
- Wash hands before and after using the play equipment in the playground.
- Look out for our hand washing stations which are located around the farm.



Hand wash station



### **BE AWARE**

- If you suffer from sickness or diarrhoea within two weeks of visiting any farm you must inform your doctor that you have had contact with animals. You can also call NHS Direct on 111. Children under five should not attend school / nursery/group childcare until that have been free of sickness or diarrhoea for two days.
- Adults are responsible for supervising children in their care at all times and ensuring they wash their hands properly.
- Pregnant women should not touch the animals, especially goats and sheep during the lambing season. More information can be found below.
- If you have any safety concerns or would like further information, please speak to a member of staff, who will be able to sign post you to the right location.

### **What is E coli 0157?**

E. coli O157 is a bacterium that lives in the intestines of animals such as cattle, sheep, deer, and goats. It can also be carried by pets and wild birds. While it typically doesn't cause harm or illness to the animals themselves, in humans, exposure to it can lead to illness, with symptoms ranging from diarrhoea to kidney failure. In some cases, the illness can be fatal, particularly for young children and the elderly, who are most at risk. By following the safety guidelines provided above, you can significantly reduce the risk of contracting any illness from the farm environment.

Why should pregnant women avoid contact with animals?

Certain infections can be passed from sheep and goats to humans, which can be dangerous for pregnant women. If a pregnant woman becomes infected, it can harm both her and her unborn baby. Therefore, if you're pregnant or think you might be, avoid contact with sheep during the lambing season (January to April). Ensure your family thoroughly washes their hands before touching you.

### **WHERE CAN YOU GET FURTHER INFORMATION?**

- Further information on E.coli 0157 is available on the Health Protection Agency website at: [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)
- Information for teachers on taking children on farm visits is available on the Health and Safety Executive website at: [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)