

After you touch your pet rodents, rabbits, and other small animals, wash your hands so you don't get sick!



Contact with pet rodents (such as mice, rats, hamsters, gerbils, and guinea pigs), rabbits, and other small non-traditional pets (such as hedgehogs, sugar gliders, chinchillas, and ferrets) can be a source of human *Salmonella* infections.



Salmonella germs can cause a diarrheal illness in people that can be mild, severe, or even life threatening.



Small pets can carry *Salmonella* germs and still appear healthy and clean.



Salmonella germs are shed in their droppings and can easily contaminate their bodies, habitats, toys, bedding, and anything in areas where they live and roam.



Children younger than 5 years of age, elderly individuals, or people with weak immune systems should use caution when handling or touching these small pets and other animals. These groups are at a higher-risk for infection and serious illness.

Protect Yourself and Your Family from Germs

Do:



Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water right after handling your pets or anything in the area where they live and roam.



Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.



If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer until you are able to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.



To prevent contamination, keep your small pets out of kitchens and other areas where food and drink is prepared, served, stored, or consumed.



Habitats, toys, feed or water containers, and any other equipment or materials used when raising or caring for your small pets should be cleaned outside the house. To prevent cross-contamination with *Salmonella* germs, avoid cleaning these items in the kitchen sink or in bathrooms.



If bathtubs must be used for this purpose, they should be thoroughly cleaned afterwards and then disinfected with bleach.

Don't:

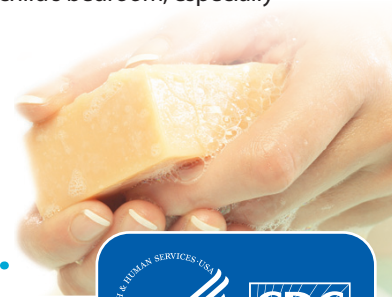


Don't keep habitats containing small pets in a child's bedroom, especially children younger than 5 years of age.



Don't snuggle or kiss small pets, touch your mouth after handling small pets, or eat or drink around them.

For more information, call 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit www.cdc.gov.



National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases

