

How to Prepare for a Healthy Family and Flock

Your new chicks, ducklings, and other birds can carry germs like *Salmonella* or bird flu that may make them – and you – sick. Follow these tips to keep your family and your birds safe.

Wash your hands after touching or caring for birds.

You can get sick if you touch your birds, or bird supplies, and then touch your eyes, nose, mouth, or face.



- Don't touch your face while handling or caring for your birds.
- Always wash your hands with soap and water after touching or caring for your birds.
- Supervise children when they are interacting with birds.

While chicks and ducklings may seem like the perfect size for your child to hold, children have a higher risk for severe illness. Children under the age of five should not touch or hold birds because of this.



Keep your birds outside.

Although it may be tempting, do not bring new birds inside your home. The best way to keep their germs outside, is to keep them outside.

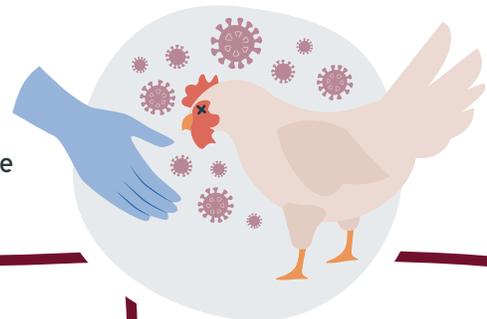
- Keep a separate pair of shoes and other supplies you use when caring for birds outside your home.
- Clean your birds' supplies, such as water or food containers, outside.

Don't let your birds have contact with wild birds.

Bird flu spreads from wild birds, especially wild ducks or geese, to backyard poultry. Don't let your birds have contact with other birds or wild animals. This includes having a cover over the top of the area where they live and roam.

Don't touch sick or dead birds.

If your birds are sick or dying, wear gloves and an N95 mask when caring for them. **Report sick or dead birds** to your veterinarian and the Washington State Department of Agriculture at 1-800-606-3056.



Department
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For questions, call
Washington State
Department of Health at
1-800-525-0127.