



Baby Chicks

What Every Parent Must Know

Baby Chicks Can Carry Diseases

Baby chicks are known to carry germs such as *Salmonella*:

- ❖ *Salmonella* can cause severe diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps.
- ❖ *Salmonella* infection can also lead to life-threatening complications in infants and children less than five years old and in people who do not have strong immune systems.

What Can Parents Do To Keep Children Safe?

Ideally, infants and children under five years should be discouraged from handling baby chicks and other birds. If children handle chicks, be sure to:

- ✓ Supervise children while they are playing with baby chicks.
- ✓ Not allow children to kiss or to put their hands or other objects into their mouths after handling chicks.
- ✓ Wash children's hands thoroughly with plenty of running water and soap after contact with chicks.
- ✓ Keep chicks away from food handling areas.

How Is Salmonella Spread?

Children and infants become infected by:

- ❖ Touching contaminated chicks or droppings and putting hands back into their mouths
- ❖ Sucking on pacifiers that have become contaminated
- ❖ Kissing chicks on the beak or feathers
- ❖ Eating food that contains *Salmonella*

How do I know If A Chick Has *Salmonella*?

- ❖ It is difficult to know if chicks are carrying *Salmonella* because they do not usually show any signs of illness.



- ❖ Most children infected with *Salmonella* have diarrhea, fever, and stomach pain that start 1 to 3 days after they swallow the germ. Other signs may include nausea, vomiting, chills and headaches.
- ❖ Sometimes, children can be sick with *Salmonella* without showing any signs. If you have concerns, please call your healthcare provider.

What Should I Do If My Child Is Sick?

- ❖ If you think your sick child may be infected with *Salmonella*, you should call your healthcare provider or go to clinic for help.

Where Can I Get More Information?

- ❖ For additional information, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/child.htm>