



# Health & Safety Rules



Some animal diseases can be transmitted to humans. There is a small risk of children acquiring infections such as **Cryptosporidium, Campylobacter, Ecoli 0157 and Salmonella**. These organisms can be found in some farm animals and may be contracted by hand to mouth contact.

As it is difficult to stop very young children putting their hands in their mouths after touching the animals, we advise that children under 3 years **DO NOT** touch the farm animals.

## Important Health & Safety Rules

1. Wash you hands using soap & running water before eating or smoking after handling the animals.
2. After handling animals please wash your hands with soap & running water\*.  
*\*disinfectant gel **DOES NOT** replace the washing of hands.*
3. Do not allow the children to kiss animals or drink from animal water troughs.
4. Do not allow children under 3 years of age to touch the farm animals.
5. Children should not put fingers in their mouths.
6. Children should not eat sweets or other snacks during the tour of the farm.
7. Eat only in the designated eating areas allocated and times specified by your guide.
8. Do not allow the children to climb on any walls, fence or gates.
9. All cuts, wounds & grazes must be covered with a waterproof dressing to avoid infection.
10. Children's dummies that have fallen to the ground should not be put back into children's mouths.
11. Wear suitable clothing and footwear, take into account the weather (Winter/Summer).
12. Stay with your group.
13. Ensure all responsible adults are aware of the rules, the group remains your responsibility.
14. Smoking, including e-cigarettes is **NOT** permitted within the farm, this also applies to the Play Area and Paddocks. we have only one designated smoking area which is the **CAR PARK ONLY**.

## Pregnant Women visiting the farm (Spring / Lambing Time)

Ewes are sometimes infected with an organism called Chlamydia abortus, which can cause miscarriage in women. The risk is very small, but it is important to be aware of the potential problem.

To avoid this risk, pregnant woman must not have any contact with newly born lambs, kids or the birth products of sheep or goats, please speak to your tour guide in confidence but signs will advise you to stay outside of the Lambing Poly Tunnels.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pregnancy-advice-on-contact-with-animals-that-are-giving-birth>

### **Minimum Adult to Child Ratio** - Based on HSE Guidelines

The ratio of children to (Supervisors/teachers/assistants/parents) should be:

- 1:1** - children under 1 years old
- 1:2** - children between 1 and 2 years old
- 1:3** - children between 2 and 3 years old
- 1:4** - children between 3 and 5 years old
- 1:8** - children 5 years +

**If supervision levels are less than this there should be no direct contact with animals.**

# Health & Safety Signage

## Stay Safe when visiting our farm

Following the simple rules listed below will help to keep you and your children safe from E. coli O157 and other infections that may be found on open farms. Pregnant women need to take extra care.



**This sign means  
Now Wash Your  
Hands**

You may see this sign all around the farm and it is there to remind you to wash your hands.



**This sign means  
STOP and Wash  
Your Hands**

You may see this sign at the entrance to cafe's and at the exits to the farm and it is there to STOP you leaving the farm without washing your hands.



**If you see this  
sign it means this  
is where you can  
wash your hands**

**This is a Clean Hands Zone**



# Washing you Hands - Health & Safety

## After

- touching the animals
- playing on the ground
- tying your laces
- using the toilet

## Before

- eating food or sweets
- touching food
- putting hand in mouth
- leaving the farm
- Smoking



**1**

**Wet your Hands**



**2**

**Use Soap**

Soap for about 20 Seconds



**3**

**Scrub**

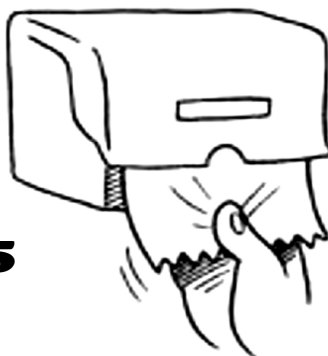
Scrub backs of hands, wrists, between fingers and under fingernails.



**4**

**Rinse you hands**

Rinse your hands under running water.



**5**

**Towel dry**



**6**

**Turn off**

Turn off taps with paper towel & then bin it

# School Risk Assessment Summary <sup>1</sup>

| Activity                       | Risks   | Post-action risk level | Control Measures Required<br>by (V) - visitors and (S) - staff   |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| Weather                        | Slipping<br>Heat exposure<br>Sunburn<br>wind exposure<br>Cold | Low                    | (V) (S) Please ensure that all children have sufficient protection for all types of weather. For inclement weather children must be adequately dressed with a waterproof coat and Wellingtons/sturdy footwear. In hot weather we advise sunhats and sun cream be worn at all times. Visitors, teachers & leaders should be aware of the possibility of wet grass and take adequate precautions against slipping and falling.   |
| Group Supervision              | Slipping<br>Tripping<br>Falling<br>lost children              | Low                    | (V) <b>Supervision of the children remains the responsibility of the parents, teachers or group leaders at all times during the visit.</b><br><br>Staff can only guide groups providing adults are present at all times. We advise leaders to make a preliminary visit to the farm prior to the main group visit.<br><br><b>See Health &amp; Safety Executive guidelines for adult/child ratios</b>  |
| Car/Coach Park & Vehicles      | Slipping, tripping, falling, injury from other vehicles       | Low                    | (V) (S) The car park will be in use by other vehicles, therefore please ensure that children are closely supervised when they alight from the coach. Keep you group together and away from traffic, make sure all adults pay attention to moving vehicles and are supervising their children while within the carpark area.  |
| Walking<br>Running<br>Climbing | Slipping<br>Tripping<br>falling                               | Low                    | (V) We advise all visitors to wear sensible and appropriate footwear to match the conditions on the day of the visit, contact the farm if unsure.<br><br>Children must be adequately supervised and instructed not to run, climb walls, gates or other objects situated on or around the site.   |
| Site Traffic                   | Various   | Low                    | (S) No unaccompanied vehicles are allowed in the main visitor area during our opening times, except in emergencies and emergency vehicles.   |
| Tractor & Trailer Ride         | Various<br>Loss of control<br>Slipping<br>Tripping<br>falling | Low                    | (V) (S) All passengers are to remain seated until the tractor has stopped and to keep your arms inside the trailer at all times.<br>(V) Supervisors should ensure that the people in your group adhere to these instructions while the ride is in operation.<br>(S) The tractor driver will secure the steps on trailer before departure, a maximum load capacity applies.<br>(S) The tractor and trailer are regularly checked and maintained.  |
| Prohibited Areas               | Various   | Low                    | (V) It is the Supervisors responsibility to ensure that children do not leave their group and stray into prohibited areas.<br>(S) Prohibited areas are indicated, sectioned off & are only accessible to staff.  |
| Pond                           | Falling<br>slipping<br>drowning                               | Low                    | (V) The welfare of the children remains the responsibility of the parent or group leaders at all times. Children must be adequately supervised around the pond and must not to enter the pond area.<br>(S) The water level is monitored and reduced if necessary.  |
| Play Area<br>Soft Play         | Falling<br>Tripping<br>Slipping<br>Collisions<br>Climbing     | Low                    | (S) A daily inspection and visual check of all equipment and play areas by a member of staff before use.<br>(V) Parent & carers must supervise children in their care. <b>No Running, No Footwear</b> is allowed but socks <b>MUST</b> be worn with the softplay barn, Height & Age restrictions apply.<br>(V) (S) Teachers / Parent should ensure that children wash their hands with running water & liquid soap after touching the animals and removing footwear.<br>All soft play framework is covered with protective soft foam material. |

# School Risk Assessment Summary <sup>2</sup>

| Activity             | Risks   | Post-action risk level | Control Measures Required by (V) - visitors and (S) - staff   |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| Electrical equipment | Fire<br>Electric Shock  | Low                    | (S) Visitors should not come into direct contact with any electrical equipment during your visit.<br>(V) Please <b>DO NOT</b> touch or interfere with any equipment as it may cause harm. Electrical work is carried out and professionally maintained by qualified electricians.   |
| Fire                 | Various<br>Panic<br>loss of control                                 | Low                    | (V) (S) Fire Risk Assessments have been carried out for the farm and adequate controls are in place. In case of fire, Supervisors should ensure that the children in their care go to the fire assemble point in either the <b>Car Park</b> or the <b>Play Area</b> as directed by staff.<br><b>Smoking / e-cigarettes are NOT permitted within the Farm</b>  |
| Chemicals            | Inhalation<br>skin contact<br>eye contact                           | Low                    | (S) Chemicals are used around the farm, all safety precautions are taken to ensure visitors do not come into contact with chemicals.<br>(S) Chemicals are stored securely in a locked secure area.  |
| Displays & Events    | Various   | Low                    | (S) Individual displays, demonstrations, events are controlled by their own Risk Assessments, these are produced in respect of each activity and are available on request.  |
| First Aid            | Stings<br>Allergy<br>Hay Fever<br>Asthma                            | Low                    | (V) Groups leaders should be aware of all medical requirements prior to the visit and have appropriate arrangements in place, please inform your guide on arrival of any arrangements required.<br>(V) If children/adults are stung seek First Aid from your assigned guide or a nearby member of staff.<br>(V) Ensure that asthma sufferers bring their inhalers.<br>(V) Visitors with allergies should take necessary precautions in advance of a visit to the farm, groups leaders are to ensure the required First Aid is appropriate to the group they are leading and   |
| Feeding Animals      | Biting<br>Scratching<br>Itching eyes<br>Animal Allergy<br>Infection | Low                    | (V) <b>Teachers / Parent should ensure that children wash their hands with running water &amp; liquid soap after touching the animals, and again before eating, before leaving the farm and after removing footwear.</b><br>(V) Visitors should not touch the animals unless encouraged to do so by our staff.<br>(V) Please ensure there is adequate group supervision according to the age of your group, warning signs and/or double fencing is in place where animals may bite. When feeding the animals ensure that the hand is flat and fingers are straight.<br>(V) (S) Please adhere to the ' <b>Please do not feed</b> ' signs that are placed beside animals.<br>* <b>Children must be supervised when feeding the animals.</b><br>* <b>Animal feed may contain traces of NUTS.</b><br>* <b>Please advise us if any children are allergic to animals.</b><br>* <b>We advise you to take additional measures if you have any particularly vulnerable children in your group e.g. weakened immune systems.</b><br><br>We advise that all children under the age of 3 years<br>DO NOT touch the animals. |

# School Risk Assessment Summary <sup>3</sup>

| Activity   | Risks   | Post-action risk level | Control Measures Required<br>by (V) - visitors and (S) - staff   |
|--|---|------------------------|--|
| Designated Eating Areas  | Infection   | Low                    | <p>(V) Only eat in Designated eating areas that have been allocated.</p> <p>(S) Eating areas are animal free zones, any animals found in eating areas are to be removed immediately and the area cleaned appropriately. Eating areas are cleaned regularly with appropriate cleaning materials and staff are to ensure that soap and water is available at all times.</p> <p>(V) Visitors are advised to wash their hands after feeding the animals, before eating &amp; smoking and before exiting the farm.</p>  |
| Barrel Ride  | Falling<br>Tripping<br>Slipping                   | Low                    | <p>(S) Only trained/authorised drivers may operate the ride. Seat belts are checked by the driver before departure, passengers must be advised to keep arms and legs within the barrel at all times.</p> <p><b>Maximum speed: 5 mph      Recommended Age: 3 years upwards</b></p>  |
| <b>Animal Zoonoses</b><br><br>Foot & Mouth<br>Blue Tongue<br>Avian Flu<br>E.coli 0157<br>Cryptosporidium<br>Salmonella<br>Campylobacter<br>Chlamydia abortus | Infection<br><br>Various                          | Medium                 | <p><b>(V) Teachers / Parents should ensure that everyone in their care wash their hands with liquid soap and running water before handling food / drink and again before exiting the farm and after removing footwear.</b></p> <p><b>*** Disinfectant Gels are not a substitute for using soap and water and are only a temporary measure until you reach hand washing facilities. ***</b></p> <p><b>We advise that all children under the age of 3 years <u>DO NOT</u> touch the animals.</b></p> <p>(V) Teachers / Parents should be aware that there is always a risk from infection in all environments, the countryside and agricultural establishments are no exception. It is advisable to ensure that a waterproof dressing protects any existing cuts or abrasions. Please also remind the children not to put their fingers in their mouth after touching or feeding the animals, as this is difficult to control with younger children</p> <p>(V) All Stock are inspected on a daily basis prior to opening.</p> <p>(S) Advice is/will be taken from <b>DEFRA</b> regarding the situation in the event of an outbreak. An outbreak may result in the farm having to close, pre-booked visits will be contacted and advised of the situation in such an event.</p> |
| <b>Pregnant Women</b>  | Miscarriage                                       | Low<br>(Spring)        | <p>(V) (S) Ewes are sometimes infected with an organism called Chlamydia abortus, which can cause miscarriage in women. Warning signs are in place in risk areas and farm guides also give a verbal warning.</p> <p>(V) (S) Pregnant woman must not have any contact with newly born lambs, kids or the birth products of sheep or goats.</p>  |
| Bouncy Pillows   | Falling, tripping, slipping, colliding, climbing. | Low                    | <p>(S) Daily inspection and visual check of the equipment by a member of staff.</p> <p>(V) Parent, carers and teachers must supervise children in their care. <b>Running, Footwear or Summersaults are NOT</b> allowed but socks <b>MUST</b> be worn. Number of users and age restrictions apply, and must be adhered to for safety, not operation in wet weather.</p>   |
| Covid-19   | Infection   | Low                    | <p>(V) Teachers / Parents should ensure that everyone in their care wash their hands with liquid soap and running water before handling food / drink and again before exiting the farm and after removing footwear.</p> <p><b>Disinfectant Gels are not a substitute for using soap and water and are only a temporary measure until you reach hand washing facilities.</b></p>  |

# Advice for Teachers <sup>1</sup>

Published April 2021  
by Access To Farms



Advice to Teachers and Others  
who organise visits for children  
Code of Practice: Teacher's Guide

<https://visitmyfarm.org/resources/code-of-practice>

# Advice for Teachers <sub>2</sub>

## ADVICE TO TEACHERS AND OTHERS WHO ORGANISE VISITS FOR CHILDREN

This advice is for teachers and others who organise visits for children. It explains actions that you can take to reduce the risk of ill health arising from contact with animals.

All animals naturally carry a range of micro-organisms, some of which can be transmitted to humans, where they may cause ill health. Some of these, such as *Escherichia coli* O157 (*E. coli* O157) or *Cryptosporidium parvum* (a microscopic parasite), present a serious health hazard and have the potential to cause serious illness and health problems which may be particularly severe in young children, the elderly, or those with reduced immune systems.

As with many other educational or recreational activities, visits can never be considered free from all risk. However, while the hazards are real, the risk of infection in children can be readily controlled by simple everyday measures. The following practical steps will help make your visit even more safe, healthy and enjoyable.

### Before your visit, you should:

- Read the Industry Code of Practice, so that you understand what control measures the farm should have in place. You can then discuss arrangements for your visit with the management at the site.
- Confirm that the control measures provided at the site match the recommendations in the Industry Code of Practice.
- Seek advice from your local authority or organisation on what the appropriate ratio of pupils to teachers/leaders/assistants/parents should be.
- Discuss and agree with the supervisors, parents or staff of the school, crèche leaders or youth organisations etc. their roles and responsibilities during the visit. In particular, they must understand the need to make sure that the children wash, or are helped to wash, their hands thoroughly in the following four situations: after contacting animals, before eating, before and after using play equipment, and when leaving site.
- Before your visit, cover at least the following key points with the children:
  - Explain the rules for the visit, including stressing that they must not eat, drink or chew anything (including sweets) outside the areas in which you permit them to do so.
  - Explain why they must wash their hands thoroughly after contact with the animals, before eating or drinking anything etc.
  - Demonstrate how to wash their hands properly.
  - Discuss the requirements for appropriate clothing, including suitable footwear. You should liaise with the attraction to ascertain what this is.
- Checking that cuts, grazes etc on children's hands are covered with a waterproof dressing.



# Advice for Teachers <sub>3</sub>

## During and after the visit, make sure that the children:

- Are reminded of the rules while on the site.
- Do not kiss animals.
- Always wash their hands thoroughly before eating, after any contact with animals, before and after using any play equipment, and again before leaving the site.
- Eat only food that they have brought with them or food for human consumption that they have bought on the premises, in designated areas.
- Never eat food that has fallen to the ground.
- Never taste animal foods.
- Do not suck fingers or put hands, pens, pencils or crayons etc. in mouths.
- Where possible, clean or clean and change their footwear before leaving. The site should have facilities to clean footwear as you leave the site.
- Wash their hands after cleaning/changing their footwear

## Check that the children stay in their allocated groups during the visit, and that they:

- Do not use or pick up tools (e.g. spades and forks) or touch other work equipment unless permitted to do so by site staff.
- Do not climb on to walls, fences, gates or animal pens etc.
- Listen carefully and follow the instructions and information given by the site staff.
- Approach and handle animals quietly and gently.
- Do not chase, frighten or torment the animals.
- Do not wander off into unsupervised or prohibited areas e.g. manure heaps.
- Know what to do if they get separated from the group for any reason.

## Remember the children are your responsibility during the visit:

- You should supervise them during the visit, especially during hand washing to make sure that each child washes thoroughly. Site staff may be able to help with this supervision.
- Allow plenty of time for hand washing before eating or leaving the site so that the children do not have to rush.

## What to do if you or any of your party become ill after a visit:

- If a member of your group shows signs of illness (e.g. sickness or diarrhoea) after a visit, advise them or their parent/guardian to visit the doctor and explain that they have had recent contact with animals.
- Please also contact the attraction you visited and inform them of the illness.