

# BACKYARD POULTRY: DON'T 'WING IT' WITH YOUR HEALTH

Backyard poultry, such as chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys, can carry germs like *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* even if they look healthy, appear clean, and show no signs of illness. To continue enjoying the benefits your animals provide, practice smart and safe handling. Even if you've never gotten sick from your backyard poultry before, be sure to follow these recommendations.

## PREVENTION

Avoid kissing your birds and putting your hands near your mouth or eating food around the animals.



Wash your hands with soap and water after touching live poultry or their environment.



Pick a pair of shoes, coveralls, and a jacket to wear while caring for your animals, and keep those items outside your home.



Keep your birds outside of homes.



## FAST FACTS



Symptoms of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* are diarrhea (which may be bloody), vomiting, fever, and abdominal cramps.



*Salmonella* illnesses due to contact with backyard poultry are increasing over time and have been reported in all 50 states.



Over the last decade, hundreds of illnesses and over forty hospitalizations have occurred in Alabama because of backyard poultry.



For more information, scan the QR code or visit  
[cdc.gov/healthy-pets/about/backyard-poultry.html](https://cdc.gov/healthy-pets/about/backyard-poultry.html)  
or [alabamapublichealth.gov/onehealth](https://alabamapublichealth.gov/onehealth).

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