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



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