

# Have a Backyard Flock? Don't 'Wing It' With Your Health



Backyard poultry like chickens and ducks can carry germs like *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*. While these germs usually don't make the animals sick, they can cause illness in humans. To continue enjoying the benefits your animals provide, practice smart and safe handling.



Of the 371 cases of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* reported in Montana in 2021, **12% had contact with live poultry** before they got sick.



There were **73 hospitalizations** in Montana residents in 2021 due to infection from *Salmonella* or *Campylobacter*.



More than 1,000 cases of *Salmonella* in the United States were part of an outbreak linked to contact with live poultry in 2021, including 14 cases from Montana.

Prevention: 

- Avoid kissing your birds and putting your hands near your mouth, or eating food around the animals
- **Wash hands with soap and water after touching live poultry or their environment**
- Keep your birds outside of homes and classrooms
- Pick a pair of shoes to wear while caring for your animals, and keep those shoes outside your home

