

A Public Health Perspective

Backyard Chickens – For the Ogden City Council
August 29, 2017

Prepared by the Weber-Morgan Health Department

Reportable Disease Investigations

- Public health routinely asks about exposure to live poultry during applicable disease investigations.
- Live poultry often carry germs such as Salmonella.
- Microscopic bacteria can live in their droppings, on their skin, feathers, feet and beaks, cages, coops, water dishes, plants and soil where the birds live and roam.

General Prevention Advice

- Children, elderly and anyone with suppressed immune systems are most at risk.
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water is vitally important if you're handling birds or items related to their living area.
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are unavailable.
- Do not nuzzle or kiss chicks or adult birds.
- Failure to maintain a clean coop could result in sanitation issues such as flies, rodents and other animals seeking food.

Prevention in the Home

- Don't prepare food, eat or drink in areas where the birds live and roam.
- Keep a dedicated pair of footwear in a separate area outside of the home.
- Clean cages and related equipment outside.
- Do not bring live poultry inside the home, especially in the kitchen.
- Clean toys and other items that contact areas where birds roam.

Preventing Foodborne Illness Related to Eggs

- Maintain a clean coop.
- Collect eggs often and refrigerate immediately.
- Remove dirt and debris with cloth and fine sandpaper.
- Do not wash eggs. Washing can draw germs inside the egg.
- Cook eggs thoroughly. Raw, runny and undercooked eggs may contain Salmonella bacteria that can make you sick.

Reported Trends

- The Centers for Disease Control reports that outbreaks linked to contact with live poultry have increased in recent years as more people keep backyard flocks.
- In 2016, a record number of illnesses nationwide were linked to contact with backyard poultry.
- For more information:
<https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/outbreaks.html>

Reported Trends . . . continued

Year	Outbreaks Investigated	Total Cases	States	Hospitalizations	Deaths	Cases in Utah
2017	10	961	48	215	1	28
2016	8	895	48	209	3	4
2015	4	252	23	63	0	6
2014	1	363	43	63	0	2
2013	2	514	46	91	0	15
2012	3	334	42 +1 Territory	68	3	6

Multistate Outbreaks of Human Salmonella Infections Linked to Live Poultry in Backyard Flocks
<https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/live-poultry-06-17/index.html>

