

## Poultry and Salmonella

All poultry (chickens, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, and turkeys) can carry salmonella at any point during their lifetime. Most of the time, they won't show any signs of illness. Taking the following steps can help reduce the risk of people or birds contracting salmonella.

### **Protect your birds by:**

- **Establishing a rodent control program.** Rodents can carry and spread salmonella.
- **Reducing and controlling fly and biting insect populations.** Biting insects can spread salmonella and other diseases.
- **Treating your flock with probiotics.** Probiotics increase the number of healthy bacteria in the GI tract thereby minimizing the number of infectious organisms present. Removing the animals to a clean site and covering contaminated areas with fresh topsoil may be of benefit as well.



### **Protect yourself and your family by:**

- **Washing your hands.** The most important thing you can do is to always use soap and water after handling the birds, their eggs or being in their environment.
- **Keeping chickens out of the vegetable garden.** This helps to eliminate contamination of your produce from fecal material.
- **Washing all your produce.** Even if your chickens haven't been in your garden, produce should be washed thoroughly before eating.
- **Cooking food properly.** Ensure that both eggs and chicken are cooked thoroughly before eating.
- **Handling produce first and poultry products last.** This help to reduce the risk of cross contamination.
- **Washing your hands (again).** Make sure to wash your hands before and after handling raw food.

For more information see;

Salmonella MA Department of Public Health (DPH);

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/salmonella>

For information about salmonella from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC);

<https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/index.html>

For information about safe food handling from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

<https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/communication/food-safety-in-the-kitchen.html>

For information about keeping you and your poultry healthy;

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/farm-animals/backyard-poultry.html>

For information on the current outbreaks of salmonella and backyard poultry;

<https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/backyardpoultry-05-20/index.html>

Poster for Healthy Families Healthy Flocks;

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/resources/backyard-flock-8x11.pdf>

For more detailed information about animals, public health and disease transmission;

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV), Compendium on Animals in Public Settings;

<http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendiumAnimals.html>