Baby Chicks and Salmonella

Baby Chicks may carry Salmonella bacteria. These germs can make you sick.

Preventing Salmonella in Children

To keep kids from getting sick make sure they:

- Do not put their hands in their mouths after touching chicks
- Do not kiss chicks on their beak or feathers
- Do not handle or clean cages or food containers
- Do not eat or drink near the baby chicks
- Do not put their mouths on objects that have been near the chick or its cage

What Can Parents Do To Keep Children Safe?

Children under five should not handle baby chicks but if they do be sure you:

- Keep chicks out of the kitchen and other living areas.
- Wash children’s hands thoroughly with plenty of running water and soap after contact with chicks.
- Contact your healthcare provider or go to a clinic if your child has diarrhea or vomiting.

Traditional springtime activities may include purchasing baby chicks. Baby chicks can be wonderful pets but, it is important to know that even healthy looking chicks may be carrying dangerous germs called Salmonella.

For additional information, please visit: http://www.mainepublichealth.gov

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