

## **Center for Disease Control Guidelines for Keeping Chickens**

1. Keep baby chicks and adult chickens away from persons with weaker immune systems, including the elderly, pregnant women, diabetics, patients receiving chemotherapy, and people who are infected with HIV.
2. Do not keep chickens if a household has children less than five years of age.
3. Make sure that any interaction between chicks or chickens and small children is supervised and that children wash their hands afterwards. Children less than five years of age tend to put their hands and other potentially contaminated objects into their mouths.
4. Supervise hand washing for small children to make sure that it is adequate. See the CDC website for proper hand washing guidelines:
5. Always wash your hands with soap and water after touching chickens or anything in their environment. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol based hand sanitizer. Bacteria on your hands can be easily transferred to objects and other people in your home.
6. Wash contaminated items with hot soapy water or with a mild bleach solution.
7. Do not eat or drink around your chickens.
8. Keep chickens away from food preparation areas.
9. Do not wash items from chicken coops like water and food dishes in the kitchen sink.
10. Do not allow chickens to roam freely around the house.
11. Frequently clean the area where chickens are kept.
12. Visit your physician if you experience abdominal pain, fever, and/or diarrhea.
13. Keep a separate pair of shoes for when going around chickens. Keep those shoes outside.

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