**For Immediate Release**

[Date]

Media Contact: Name | Number | Email

**[Local Health Department] Notifies Public of Illness Linked to
Farm Animal Exposure at the [Fair Name]**

*Optional Subheading*

[County or City, State] – [Local Health Department], in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health, is investigating cases of/an outbreak of [Disease Name] possibly associated with animal exhibits at the [Fair Name]. As of [Date], [# Case-Patients] individuals who visited [Fair Name] have become sick.

[Broad details about exposure and any measures taken by public health to mitigate further risk]

[Brief overview of illness or causative agent (ex: STEC, *Salmonella*, etc.) including transmission]

Every year, infections and illnesses in children and adults after exposure to animals at county fairs, petting zoos, and farms are reported to public health. These infections can be prevented by following precautions during and after being around animals and the areas where they are kept.

[Quote from local public health official]

If you develop any illness after visiting animal exhibits, including fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain, see a healthcare provider and tell them about any recent activity around farm animals.

There are steps you can take to protect yourself and your family at the fair, petting zoo, or other places where farm animals are present:

* Do not eat, drink, or put anything in your mouth while in an area where animals are housed or exhibited. All toys, pacifiers, cups, baby bottles and other drink containers, strollers, and similar items should be left outside of animal exhibits, or put away before entering animal areas.
* Keep your hands out of your mouth and away from your eyes and nose until you have exited an animal area and washed your hands with soap and running water.
* Children under five should be supervised at all times to prevent hand-to-mouth activity while in animal areas. Children who cannot walk should be carried.
* Wash your hands with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds as soon as possible after touching animals or being in areas where animals are housed or exhibited, even if you did not touch any animals.
* People who are more likely to get very sick from animal germs should consider avoiding animal areas altogether. These include older adults and seniors, children under the age of five, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems or chronic health conditions.

For more information, visit:

* [CDC Stay Healthy at Animal Exhibits webpage](https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/specific-groups/stay-healthy-animal-exhibits.html)
* [CDPH Zoönotic Diseases webpage](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/ZoonoticDiseases.aspx)
* [LHD webpage/contact info]

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**About the [Local Health Department]**