

# Seriously, how cute are baby chicks?



**T**hose cute little chicks and ducklings can be a great attraction for children, especially in the spring time. But they can also be a source of illness, so it's important for those who handle them to take steps to avoid getting sick.

Each year outbreaks of *Salmonella* occur as a result of individuals coming in contact with healthy baby poultry that are carrying the bacteria in their intestines.

The most common symptoms of *Salmonella* infection are diarrhea and fever. Other symptoms may include vomiting and cramps. People with mild symptoms usually recover without treatment. However, these illnesses can lead to severe complications, even requiring hospitalization.

Keep yourself safe: **Wash your hands after contact with poultry!** Avoid handling them at all if you are under the age of 5, immunocompromised, or pregnant.



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