



BE A “ZOO NOTIC” DISEASE DETECTIVE

Look here for the answers to the questions in Be a “Zoonotic” Disease Detective.



Answer Sheet

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What types of careers do you think are available within the Centers for Disease Control?

As the nation’s health protection agency, the CDC’s mission is to save lives and protect people from health threats. The CDC employs people in many career fields, including science, technology, medicine, communications, education, and business. The CDC hires people who are just beginning their careers and people who have advanced training and experience.

While many people who work at CDC are scientists and medical professionals, you don’t need to have experience in science or medicine to work at CDC. The agency also needs people with technical and other skills to support its work. Some of the most common jobs at CDC include behavioral scientist, biologist, emergency response specialist, epidemiologist, health education specialist, health informatics specialist, health scientist, medical officer, microbiologist, public health advisor, and public health analyst. Nontechnical support jobs include accountants, graphic designers, communications specialists, computer and information technology specialists, engineers, secretaries, statisticians, web designers and writers. If you’re interested in travel and global health issues, the CDC also has opportunities for workers to travel to other countries to help improve the health of people in other nations.

The CDC has a number of specialized training programs in public health for students from high school through college; people with bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degrees; and professionals such as scientists, researchers, lab workers, and public health workers. These training programs help people improve their knowledge and skills and encourage them to follow career paths in public health.

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What disease could Jordan catch from his baby chicks?

Jordan could catch salmonellosis, which is caused by a bacteria called *Salmonella*.

What are three things he should or should not do when handling the chicks to keep himself safe from getting an infection?

(Note: While the question asks for three answers, all of the following points are correct.)

Jordan should:

- ▶ Wash his hands well with soap and water after touching the chicks or anything in the area where they live or roam.
- ▶ Not keep the chicks inside the house. If they must be indoors, he should avoid housing them in the kitchen, bathroom, or other areas where food or drinks are prepared.
- ▶ Not snuggle or kiss the birds, touch his mouth, or eat or drink around live birds.
- ▶ Clean any equipment associated with caring for live birds, such as cages or feed or water containers, outside of the house. He shouldn’t clean these items anywhere near where food is prepared or in bathrooms.

What could Jordan have done differently?

Jordan could:

- ▶ Have either eaten his crackers in the kitchen before going to clean the chicks’ cage or washed his hands well with soap and water after handling the chicks and before eating his crackers in the kitchen. (Never eat, drink, or put things in your mouth in animal areas. Don’t eat food that an animal has touched!)



- ▶ Not kiss or snuggle his birds. (Even though the birds may look clean, they may have germs on their bodies or feathers that can make you sick if you get them in your mouth.)
- ▶ Keep his birds in a safe place outdoors or in an area of the house away from where the family prepares food, eats, drinks, bathes, or brushes their teeth.
- ▶ Wash his hands well with soap and water after handling the birds and before he helps his mom make dinner.

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In addition to having asthma, what other things could make a person at “high-risk” for getting very sick from a zoonotic disease?

People who fall into these categories are at higher risk for getting very sick from zoonotic diseases:

- ▶ **Infants and children less than 5 years old** – Young children are more likely to touch surfaces that may be contaminated with animal manure and then put their hands in their mouths. They also are not likely to wash their hands well or at all unless an adult does it for them.

This is why children younger than 5 should be supervised by an adult when having contact with animals. They should also not be allowed to have contact with reptiles, amphibians, or baby poultry (such as chicks or ducklings). Having contact with animals at petting zoos is also not a good idea for children younger than 5.

- ▶ **People with weakened immune systems** – Our immune systems help us fight infections, but some people’s immune systems may not function properly because of factors such as:
 - Age (both very young and elderly people)
 - Pregnancy
 - An illness they already have
 - Medication they’re taking

What are some things everyone can do to protect themselves from getting sick from animals at a fair or a petting zoo?

We can protect ourselves by:

- ▶ Never eating, drinking, or putting things in our mouths when we’re in areas where animals are housed or are being exhibited.
- ▶ Washing our hands well with soap and water right after visiting an animal area.



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