

CHECKLIST OF THE MAIN PRECAUTIONS FOR VISITS TO FARMS

As sent by DHSS Medical Branch, Dundonald House, 22. February 2000

Preparations for the visit:

1. Check that farm is well managed, that the grounds and public areas are as clean as possible and that suitable first Aid arrangements are made.
 - Streamvale Farm is managed by the Morrow Family and follows all government and insurance requirements for public access
 - We have a first aider on duty each day
2. Animals should be prohibited from any outdoor picnic areas.
 - There are no animals kept in the picnic areas
3. Check that the farm has suitable washing facilities, appropriately signposted with running water, soap and disposable towels or hot air hand dryer(s)
 - Streamvale Farm has appropriately signposted and appointed washing facilities in all indoor picnic areas and in toilets
4. Ensure suitable precautions are in place where appropriate e.g. in restricted areas such as near slurry pits or where sick animals are isolated.
 - All restricted areas are safely fenced with clear warning signs.
5. Ensure that there is an adequate number of adults to supervise the children, taking into account the age and stage of development of the pupils.
 - 1 adult for 4 children are allowed in free of charge for supervision. A trained guide will supervise the group.
6. Explain to the pupils that they cannot be allowed to eat or drink anything, including crisps sweets, chewing gum, etc while touring the farm, because of the risk of infection.
 - Signs and spoken instruction from the guide ensures this is upheld.
7. Suitable protective footwear, such as Wellington boots, should be worn.

During the visit:

At Streamvale Farm the tour guides will point out all the following precautions to the teachers and pupils at all the appropriate stops. However, we must have total cooperation from adults in charge, especially where under 5's are concerned as they may not understand instruction.

8. If the children are in contact with, or feeding, farm animals, warn them not to place their faces against the animals or put their hands in their own mouths afterwards.
9. After contact with the animals and particularly before eating and drinking, ensure all pupils wash and dry their hands thoroughly. If young children are in the group, hand washing would need to be supervised.
10. Meal breaks or snacks should be taken well away from areas where animals are kept and pupils warned not to eat anything which may have fallen on the ground.
11. Ensure pupils do not consume unpasteurised dairy produce, for example milk or cheese or taste animal feedstuffs, such as silage and concentrates.

12. Manure or slurry presents a particular risk of infection and pupils should be warned against contact with it. If they do ensure that they thoroughly wash and dry the contaminated body areas immediately.

At the end of the visit:

13. Ensure all children wash their hands thoroughly before departure.

14. Ensure that footwear is cleaned and free as possible from faecal material, disinfectant footbaths are a useful additional precaution.