**HOLLY HAGG COMMUNITY FARM**

**HEALTH & SAFETY AROUND ANIMALS**

The following steps will help make your visit safe and reduce the risks of injury and infection

**Safety**

* Children under the age of 14 must be supervised at all times and those under 10 remain in close contact with parent/carers near water and our animals. Extra supervision required for younger children. The pond is deep.
* Please wear sturdy footwear to avoid slips, trips etc. on uneven ground
* Respect the space our animals need around them, don’t run or shout close to them or try to touch alpacas unless under the supervision of staff.
* Alpacas can kick. Avoid standing right behind them or touching behind the shoulder.
* When hand feeding an alpaca their teeth may nip you. They don’t mean to bite you but skin grazes can happen. Ask for a feeding saucer if you don’t want to take the risk.
* When hand feeding chickens they will peck your hand. This feels surprising but is unlikely to cause any harm. Make sure children know what to expect.
* Do not enter any closed pens or animal/poultry housing unless invited and supervised by a member of staff. This is their safe space.

**Hygiene**

* Ensure that hands are washed thoroughly with soap and water after touching or feeding any of our animals, before eating and on leaving Holly Hagg. Hand washing stations are throughout the farm.
* Please ensure any cuts and grazes on hands are covered with a waterproof dressing.
* Eating and drinking is only allowed in the designated picnic areas.
* Do not feed human food to the animals – this may be harmful or against the law.
* Do not kiss our animals.
* Do not eat animal food.
* Do not put fingers in mouths & ensure dummies are cleaned thoroughly.
* Do not touch or tread in animal faeces, wash shoes and hands if you accidently come into contact with faeces
* Risks from e-coli and other diseases transmitted from animals are low and significantly mitigated by effective hand hygiene and the above guidance however in young children or the elderly and those with compromised health there is potential for significant ill health. If after visiting Holly Hagg you become ill with sickness or diarrhoea contact your doctor and tell them you have visited a farm setting.