



**For immediate release**

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## **Santa Barbara County Fair Responds to E.coli Contamination at San Diego County Fair**

SANTA MARIA— We are saddened by the news of the tragic death of a 2-year-old boy from E.coli after visiting the petting zoo at the San Diego County Fair. With the Santa Barbara County Fair set to begin July 10-14, the Santa Maria Fairpark wants to assure fair-goers that we value the safety of our visitors, and the cleanliness and sanitary conditions of our grounds.

Hand washing remains the best way to prevent the spread of bacteria and infection, and it should be performed after contact with any animal or their surroundings. The Ponyland Amusements petting zoo will remain open to visitors. The Fair will provide hand washing stations at the petting zoo and pony areas, as well as in the barns. Signage will also be posted identifying hand washing areas.

“Our hearts go out to the families in San Diego,” said Santa Maria Fairpark CEO, Richard Persons. “Visiting the Fair should be a special and amazing experience. We value our safety record and we remain confident in the steps our contractors take to extend a safe and hygienic experience to our visitors.”

We encourage all visitors to animal areas to use the amenities provided along with proper hand-washing techniques. This is especially true for children and seniors who are more vulnerable to the spread of infection.

For more information, visit [www.santamariafairpark.com](http://www.santamariafairpark.com) or Like us on [Facebook](#).

### **About the Santa Maria Fairpark**

The Santa Maria Fairpark serves as the hub for major events and community activities on California's Central Coast. The state-owned facility hosts the annual Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival, which attracts more than 60,000 people and is home to its headlining event the Santa Barbara County Fair, which is attended by more than 140,000 people.