

§169.121. Reptile-Associated Salmonellosis.

(a) The Health and Safety Code, §81.352, requires retail stores that sell reptiles to post warning signs and distribute written warnings regarding reptile-associated salmonellosis to purchasers in accordance with the form and content designated by the Department of State Health Services.

(b) The warning signs must meet the following guidelines.

(1) The sign must be a minimum of 8.5 x 11 inches with fonts that are clearly visible and readily draw attention to the notice.

(2) The signs must be prominently displayed at each location where reptiles are displayed, housed, or held.

(3) At a minimum, the contents of the sign must include the following recommendations for preventing transmission of *Salmonella* from reptiles to humans.

(A) Persons should always wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling reptiles or reptile cages.

(B) Persons at increased risk for infection or serious complications of salmonellosis (e.g., children aged <5 years and immunocompromised persons) should avoid contact with reptiles and any items that have been in contact with reptiles.

(C) Reptiles should be kept out of households that include children aged <5 years or immunocompromised persons. Families expecting a new child should remove any reptile from the home before the infant arrives.

(D) Reptiles should not be allowed in childcare centers.

(E) Reptiles should not be allowed to roam freely throughout the home or living area.

(F) Reptiles should be kept out of kitchens and other food-preparation areas to prevent contamination. Kitchen sinks should not be used to bathe reptiles or to wash their dishes, cages, or aquariums. If bathtubs are used for these purposes, they should be cleaned thoroughly and disinfected with bleach.

(4) The sign must also contain a statement that reptiles carry *Salmonella* bacteria, which can make people sick.

(c) The written warnings, such as fliers or pamphlets, must contain the same information and statements as required for the signs. The written warnings must also contain a statement that purchasers of reptiles can contact their local health department for questions pertaining to *Salmonella*.