

"Is it okay for my dog to lick my son's face?"

Question: *"Is it okay for my dog to lick my son's face?"*

Answer: *Yes, it probably is. The only disease that dogs and humans can pass back and forth through saliva is beta strep throat, which is relatively rare. You may want to take your pup to the veterinarian if strep throat has been passed among the members of your family, though. And if your son has a weakened immune system, you may want to be careful about exposing him to the normal bacteria that's present in the saliva of healthy dogs.*

Just a reminder--since you have a child in the house, you should be careful to make sure your dog doesn't become infected with worms. These parasites are not passed by saliva, but children can pick them up by playing on the ground and the floor. A good rule of thumb is, if children are in the house, have your dog dewormed regularly! And even if you don't have children at home, regular deworming will help your dog stay healthy and will help protect any children or adults who come to visit.