

Food Establishment Employee Illness & Symptom Action Guidance

for Facilities Serving Highly Susceptible Populations



| Symptoms | Action Needed by Person in Charge | Employee can return to work when |
|--|---|--|
| Vomiting or Diarrhea | EXCLUDE from food establishment | Symptom-free for at least 24 hours* |
| Jaundice (skin or eye yellowing) | EXCLUDE from food establishment <i>and</i> Notify Health Department & Regulatory Authority | Only after approval from the Local Health Officer <i>and</i> Regulatory Authority |
| Sore Throat with Fever | RESTRICT from working with open food or clean utensils | Symptom-free (or with medical documentation) |
| Infected Wound or Pus-filled Boil | RESTRICT from working with open food or clean utensils when wound is red or oozing | After the wound or pus-filled boil is healed or covered, to include a glove if the wound is on the hand or wrist |
| Sneezing, coughing, running nose | RESTRICT from working with open food or clean utensils | After symptoms have resolved |
| Diagnosed Illness: Norovirus, Shigella, Salmonella, E. coli (STEC such as O157, O26, O145), Hepatitis A (or jaundice). | | |
| Diagnosed Illness | EXCLUDE from food establishment <i>and</i> Notify Health Department & Regulatory Authority | Only after approval from the Local Health Officer |
| Potential exposure to illnesses listed above or confirmed disease outbreaks | | |
| RESTRICT food employees with potential exposure (even if the employee is asymptomatic) when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> employee has consumed or prepared food implicated in a confirmed disease outbreak employee has (or lives with someone who has) attended or worked in a setting with a confirmed disease outbreak employee lives in the same household as someone, or consumed food prepared by a person ill with one of the illnesses listed above RETURN food employees after potential exposure to the listed foodborne illnesses or confirmed disease outbreaks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request approval from the Health Department and Regulatory Authority | | |
| Customer Complaints: Foodborne Illness or Injury | | |
| Any illness or injury linked to food | Notify Regulatory Authority or Health Department | Report all illness or injury complaints and hold onto any suspected food. |
| ANY FOOD CONTAMINATED BY ILL WORKERS MAY NOT BE SERVED. | | |
| Exclude means to prevent a person from working as an employee in a food establishment or entering a food establishment as an employee Restrict means to limit the activities of a food employee so that there is no risk of transmitting a disease that is transmissible through food and the food employee does not work with exposed food, clean equipment/utensils/linens, or unwrapped single use articles. | | |
| *Workers with medical documentation showing symptoms are not transmissible through food may work without special restriction. | | |
| WAC 246-215 References: 02205, 02215, 2220, 02225, 02235, 02245, 02250, 02405, 03700, 08520 | | |

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