



ILLNESS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR FOODSERVICE WORKERS & PERSONS-IN-CHARGE

To reduce the opportunity for the transmission of a foodborne illness by an ill food worker that has symptoms associated with acute gastrointestinal illness* or other communicable disease, Chapter 3, Article 3 of the California Retail Food Code (CRFC) establishes mandatory notification responsibilities for both the food worker, to report to the Person-In-Charge, and the food facilities Manager or Person-In-Charge, to report to the Department of Environmental Health.

FOOD EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

You must be **RESTRICTED** to work if you have:

- Diarrhea, either alone or in conjunction with other gastrointestinal symptoms (i.e. vomiting, fever or abdominal cramps).
- Vomiting in conjunction with either diarrhea or two other gastrointestinal symptoms (i.e. fever or abdominal cramps).

You may be given a work assignment temporarily that does not put customers at risk of getting sick (i.e. not working with exposed food, clean equipment, linens, or utensils).

If you have been diagnosed with one of the following illnesses, you must report the illness to the Person-In-Charge at your facility immediately.

- E.coli O157:H7
- Salmonella typhi/spp.
- Shigella spp.
- Hepatitis A virus
- Norovirus
- Entamoeba histolytica
- Enterohemorrhagic or shiga toxin producing Escherichia coli
- Other communicable disease that are transmissible through food

You must be **EXCLUDED** from work until you have obtained a health clearance letter from your health care provider.

Reporting Policy

You must report to the Person-In-Charge:

- Any incident of diarrhea, and/or vomiting
- If you have been diagnosed with any of the illnesses listed above
- If you have an open, infected wound so that precautions can be taken to prevent food contamination

PERSON-IN-CHARGE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Must train all employees their responsibility for reporting any illness to the Person-In-Charge

Employee Policy

Restrict or **exclude** all ill employees from the food establishment while they have:

- Diarrhea, either alone or in conjunction with other gastrointestinal symptoms (i.e. vomiting, fever or abdominal cramps).
- Vomiting in conjunction with either diarrhea or two other gastrointestinal symptoms (i.e. fever or abdominal cramps).

Recommendation: Employees shall not return to work for at least 48-72 hours after symptoms have subsided.

EXCLUSION must apply if an employee has been diagnosed with:

- E.coli O157:H7
- Salmonella typhi/spp
- Shigella spp.
- Hepatitis A virus
- Norovirus
- Entamoeba histolytica
- Enterohemorrhagic or shiga toxin producing Escherichia coli
- Or any other illness that is transmittable through food.

NOTE: Employees may not return to work for at least 48-72 hours after symptoms have subsided and they have obtained a health clearance from their health care provider if they have been diagnosed with any of the above illnesses.

Reporting Policy

You must notify our office:

- When an employee is diagnosed with any of the illnesses listed above
- When you are aware that two or more of your employees are concurrently experiencing diarrhea or vomiting

Santa Clara County
Department of Environmental Health
408 918-3400
DEHweb@deh.sccgov.org

*Acute Gastrointestinal Illness is defined in CRFC as a short duration illness most often characterized by diarrhea and/or vomiting; alone or in conjunction with other gastrointestinal symptoms, such as fever or abdominal cramps.