

# Food Employee Foodborne Illness Guidelines

## Illness Symptoms Action Guidance [Food Code Sections 2-201.12 and 2-201.13]

Symptoms	Action	Return to Work Criteria for Food Employees	Requires Regulator Approval
<b>Vomiting</b>	Exclude from food establishment	Employee should be symptom free for at least 24 hours <b>or</b> provide medical documentation that states the symptom is from a noninfectious condition	No, not unless the employees has been diagnosed with one of the <b>Big Six</b> exclusionary illnesses
<b>Diarrhea</b>	Exclude from food establishment	Employee should be symptom free for at least 24 hours or provide medical documentation that states the symptom is from a noninfectious condition	No, not unless the employees has been diagnosed with one of the <b>Big Six</b> exclusionary illnesses
<b>Jaundice</b>	Exclude from food establishment, notify regulator	Employee should provide medical documentation that the employee is free of hepatitis A virus or other fecal-orally transmitted infection	Yes
<b>Sore Throat with Fever</b>	Restrict employee contact with food or food contact surface	Employee should provide medical documentation stating they have received antibiotic therapy for > 24 hours, produced a negative throat culture or is free from <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> infection	No
<b>Infected Wound or Pustular Boil</b>	Restrict employee contact with food or food contact surface	Skin with an infected wound, cut or boil must be properly covered with a leak-proof bandage and an impermeable barrier	No

Industries that primarily serve high-risk populations should exclude employees experiencing any of the symptoms above.

The Big Six Foodborne Illnesses are: 1. Hepatitis A 2. Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* 3. Norovirus 4. Shigella 5. Salmonella (nontyphoidal) 6. Typhoid fever (caused by *Salmonella typhi*)

*If an employee is diagnosed with or exposed to any of these illnesses, they must be excluded from working at a food service operation and cannot return to work at a food service operation until approval has been received from a medical professional and the local regulator.*

**Criteria for Work Exclusion:** Any food employee diagnosed with one of the Big Six foodborne illnesses is required to report the diagnosis to their supervisor or manager. The food employee must be excluded from working in the food service operation and the law requires the operation and Person In Charge to immediately notify their regulator. Check with your inspector before allowing a diagnosed food employee to return to work.

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