

# 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	Local Health Department Approval
<b>Vomiting</b>	Exclude from retail food establishment	Symptom free for at least 24 hours or provide medical documentation that states the symptom is from a noninfectious condition	No, if not diagnosed as one of the <b>Big Five</b>
<b>Diarrhea</b>	Exclude from retail food establishment	Symptom free for at least 24 hours or provide medical documentation that states the symptom is from a noninfectious condition	No, if not diagnosed as one of the <b>Big Five</b>
<b>Jaundice</b>	Exclude from retail food establishment; call manager; <b>Notify Health Department</b>	Medical documentation that food employee is free of hepatitis A virus or other fecal-orally transmitted infection	Yes
<b>Sore Throat with Fever</b>	Restrict from food area of retail food establishment	Medical documentation stating received antibiotic therapy for >24 hours; one negative throat culture; or is free from infection from <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	No
<b>*Infected Wound or Pustular Boil</b>	Restrict from food area of retail food establishment	*After the skin, infected wound, cut, or pustule boil is properly covered	No

\* Note: Associated hands and wrists must be free of cuts or sores that are red or oozing, unless an impermeable cover is used over the sore and a single-use glove is worn over the impermeable cover. Cuts or sores on exposed portions of the arms and other body parts must be covered with an impermeable cover or tight-fitting bandage.

**The Big Five are: 1. *Salmonella typhi* 2. *Shigella* 3. Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* 4. *Hepatitis A* 5. *Norovirus***  
**If you have been diagnosed with, or exposed to these illnesses, they are so contagious that you must be excluded from work at a food establishment, and you cannot return to work at a food establishment until approval has been received from the Local Health Department.**

**Criteria for Exclusion from Work:** Any food employee diagnosed with an illness due to the Big Five must report the diagnosis to the manager. The food employee must be excluded from working in the retail food establishment and the law requires the manager to notify the local health department immediately. Before a food employee is allowed to return to work, check with the local health department.

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Funded by Act No. 92, of P.A. 2000, Industry Food Safety Education Fund