

# Washington State Retail Food Code Changes



Whatcom County  
**HEALTH**  
Department

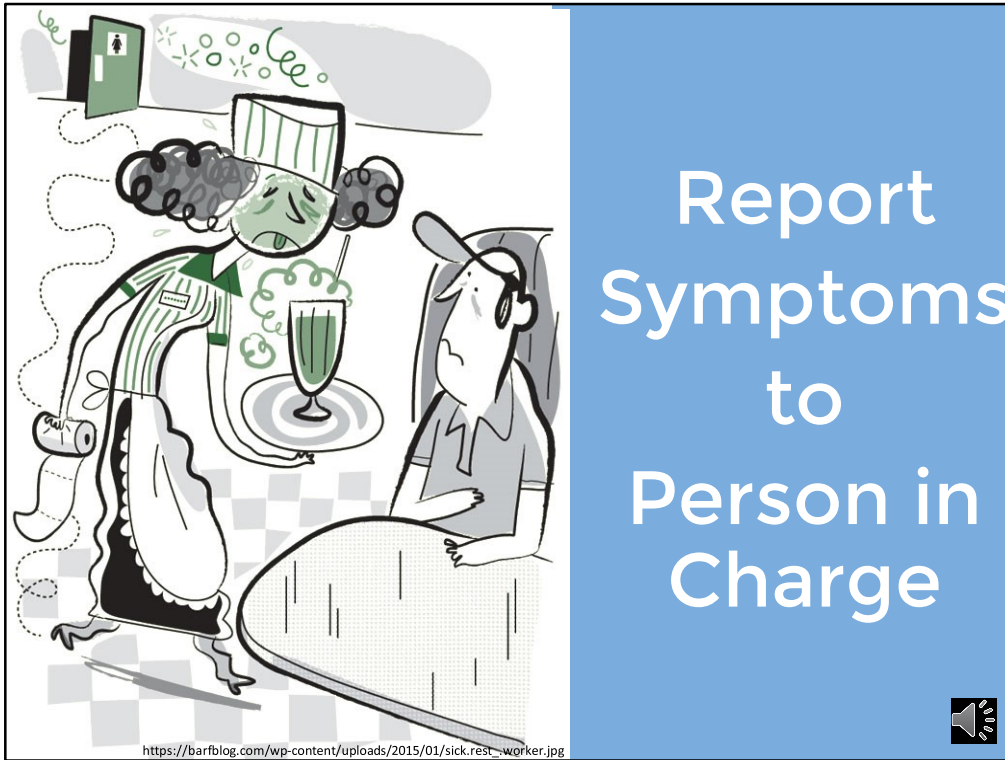


Hello and welcome to Whatcom County Health Department's (WCHD) Food Safety Program presentation, in which we will be reviewing some of the main Washington State retail food code changes.

# Rule Change: Employee Health



This video will cover the Employee Health rule change that went into effect on March 1, 2022.



Employees must report certain symptoms to the Person in Charge (PIC).

# Symptoms

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- Diarrhea.
- Vomiting.
- Sore throat with fever.
- Jaundice.
- Infected, uncovered wounds.



These symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting, sore throat with fever, jaundice; or a lesion on hand or wrist containing pus or an infected wound on hand or wrist that is open and draining.

## Cover wounds

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- Bandages on hands must be covered with disposable gloves.

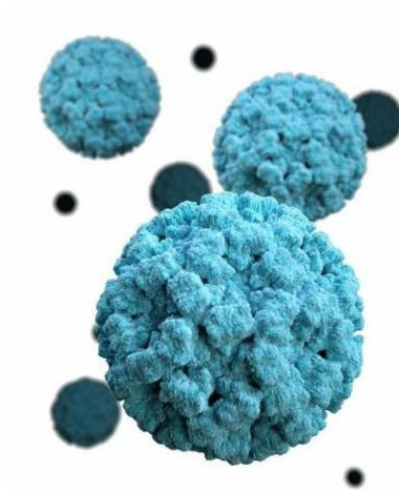


Cuts on hands or wrists must be covered with a bandage to prevent leaking and covered with disposable glove.

Side note: no one wants to find a used bandage in their food.

## Report Diagnosed Infections

- Norovirus.
- Hepatitis A.
- Shigella.
- E. Coli.
- Salmonella.



<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/infection-immunity/people/professor-judith-breuer/noropatrol-why-do-norovirus-pandemics-occur-how-can-we-control-them>



Employees must also report a diagnosis of certain viral or bacterial infections. These include Norovirus, Hepatitis A virus, Shigella, Shiga-toxin producing E. coli and Salmonella.

## Verification

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- Verify that employees are trained about illness exclusion and reporting.



According to new food code changes, establishments must be able to verify that every food worker is trained about illness exclusion and illness reporting.

# Signed Statement

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One example of a verifiable method is keeping a signed statement for each employee stating they are aware of this requirement.





# Employee Health Resources

- WCHD handout
- WA Department of Health toolkit
- Both available here:  
[whatcomcounty.us/3232/Food-Safety](http://whatcomcounty.us/3232/Food-Safety)


## Not Feeling Well?

REPORT TO THE PERSON IN CHARGE IF YOU HAVE:

- **Diarhea and/or vomiting.**
  - ❖ Return to work 24 hours after symptoms stop.
- **Fever with sore throat.**
  - ❖ Return to work after all symptoms stop.
- **Jaundice (yellow skin /eyes).**
  - ❖ Return to work when approved by the Whatcom County Health Department.
- **Infected, uncovered wounds.**
  - ❖ Protect with an impermeable cover and, if on the hand or wrist, with a single-use glove.
- **A diagnosed illness from an infection with:**
  - ❖ Norovirus, Hepatitis A, Shigella, Salmonella, Shiga toxin-producing E. Coli.
  - ❖ Return to work when approved by the Whatcom County Health Department.

Refer to Washington State Retail Food Code, WAC 246-216 Subpart 8 - Employee Health for more information.

Please contact the Food Safety Team at the Whatcom County Health Department with any questions.  
[FoodSafety@whatcom.us](mailto:FoodSafety@whatcom.us)  
360-776-2200 ext. 8326 ext. -434pm

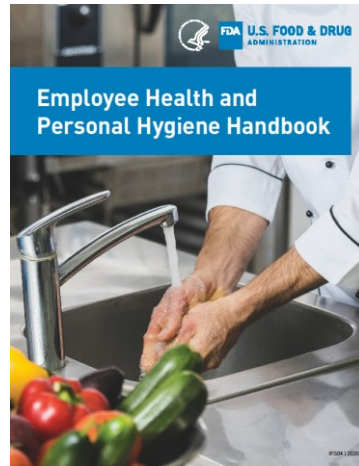


The Whatcom County Health Department (WCHD) has created a handout to help you meet this requirement in a verifiable way. You can post this in your establishment along with an employee sign-off sheet. The Washington Department of Health created a date marking toolkit establishments can use as well. Both of these resources are available on our Food Safety webpage.



# Employee Health Resources

- FDA Employee Health and Personal Hygiene Book
- Available online:  
[fda.gov/media/77065/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/77065/download)



The FDA Employee Health and Hygiene Book is another great resource. The 2022 version is available online at the link on the bottom of the slide.

**Thanks for Watching!**

