

FOOD SAFETY NOTICE

BARE HAND CONTACT OF READY-TO-EAT FOODS IS PROHIBITED

BY STATE OF IDAHO RULES GOVERNING FOOD SAFETY AND SANITATION STANDARDS FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS (UNICODE), JULY 1, 1998, BARE HAND CONTACT OF READY- TO-EAT FOODS IS PROHIBITED IN ALL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS (INCLUDING TEMPORARY AND MOBILE ONES).

What is hepatitis A?** Hepatitis A is a viral illness that causes inflammation of the liver. Transmission of the disease is person-to-person due to fecal contamination (fecal-oral route). The infectious agent is found in feces, reaching peak levels the week or two **before symptoms occur**. In food operations, disease transmission is **primarily from food contamination by infected employees who do not properly wash their hands after using the toilet and handle ready-to-eat foods with their bare hands.

May ready-to-eat foods be touched with bare hands if the hands are washed, or a germicidal soap or hand sanitizer is used? Although thorough hand-washing is the best way to prevent the spread of hepatitis A, for the purpose of this action, **HANDWASHING ALONE IS NOT AN ALTERNATIVE!**

WHEN HANDLING READY-TO-EAT FOODS, GLOVES OR UTENSILS MUST BE USED.
PLEASE POST “GLOVE SIGNS.”

For more information, call:

Central District Health, Boise
Environmental Health Division – (208) 327-7499