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