



## Employee Health *RED* BOOK

When to RESTRICT and EXCLUDE food service employees,  
due to a **FOODBORNE ILLNESS**



## Let's start an Employee Health Policy!

To start an employee health policy (EHP), you must have a training meeting with your employees, one at a time or as a group, and review some very specific information.

There are three forms which are used to explain the EHP. Two of the forms are for employees **and** managers and the third form is for **managers only**.

**Form 1 “What is foodborne illness?”**

**Form 2 Employee Illness Reporting Agreement.**

**Form 3 Manager’s Decision Guide.**

You will use forms #1 and #2 when training your employees. Make enough copies for each employee to have his/her own to review.

**Form 1 – What is foodborne illness?**

- 1) Foodborne illness can make customers sick and that can have an effect on the restaurant’s business.
- 2) The “Big Six” cause the most foodborne illnesses in the United States.
- 3) It is important for employees and managers to recognize the symptoms of the “Big Six” foodborne illnesses.

**Form 2 – Employee Agreement;**

- 1) The **employee agrees to report** to a manager if:
  - a. The employee experiences symptoms of a foodborne illness;
  - b. A doctor tells the employee he/she is sick with a foodborne illness;
  - c. The employee is exposed to a foodborne illness through contact with other people.

Make the EHP part of the training for all new employees. During inspections, the health department inspector will ask for evidence that you are doing the training.

There are two ways to show that employees have received the EHP information:

- 1) Employee signature on the Employee Agreement or
- 2) A sign-in sheet from a group training meeting.

If you have any questions about the Employee Health Policy, you may contact your local health department. To find your local health department, please visit <http://dph.georgia.gov/district-office-directory>.

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## Form 1

## What is foodborne illness?

People can become sick from eating contaminated food. This is called foodborne illness. Contaminated means there are bacteria and viruses on the food which can make people sick. Sometimes the food in a restaurant can become contaminated because of the way an employee handles the food. If a customer becomes sick from eating contaminated food in a restaurant, there may be serious results. For example:

### Employee

Contaminates the food by not washing his/her hands properly;

### Customer

Gets sick  
Tells friends, relatives, neighbors not to eat at restaurant  
Complains to the health department  
Could take the restaurant to court

### Restaurant

Loses business  
Could go out of business  
Employee could be out of a job

The most contagious foodborne illnesses are caused by:

- |                            |                       |                                    |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>1. E.Coli</b>           | <b>2. Hepatitis A</b> | <b>3. Shigella</b>                 |
| <b>4. Salmonella Typhi</b> | <b>5. Norovirus</b>   | <b>6. Non-typhoidal Salmonella</b> |

These illnesses are referred to as the “Big Six”. Often these illnesses have similar symptoms. It is important that an employee recognize the symptoms of foodborne illness such as:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Jaundice
- Sore throat with fever
- Skin infection such as open sores



=

**CALL YOUR  
MANAGER**



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## Form 2 EMPLOYEE ILLNESS REPORTING AGREEMENT

You play an important role in providing safe food to the general public. As a food handler, you have a responsibility to report the symptoms and conditions listed below.

I agree to report to the person in charge any of the following symptoms of foodborne illness:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Jaundice – yellow skin or eye color
- Sore throat with fever
- Infected wounds

I agree to report to the person in charge if a doctor says that I have one of the following infections:

- E.coli
- Salmonella *Typhi*
- *Non-Typhoidal* Samonella
- Shigella
- Hepatitis A
- Norovirus

I agree to report to the person in charge if I am exposed to foodborne illness in any of the following ways:

- I am exposed to a confirmed outbreak of foodborne illness;
- Someone who lives in my house is diagnosed with a foodborne illness;
- Someone who lives in my house attends an event or works in a place which has a confirmed outbreak of foodborne illness.

### Employee Acknowledgement

I understand that if I fail to meet the terms of this agreement, action could be taken by the food establishment or by \_\_\_\_\_ County Health Department that may affect my employment.

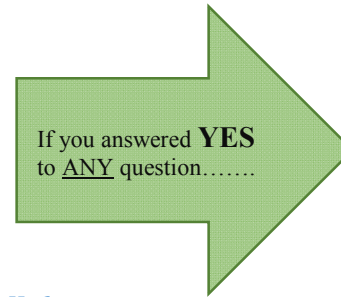
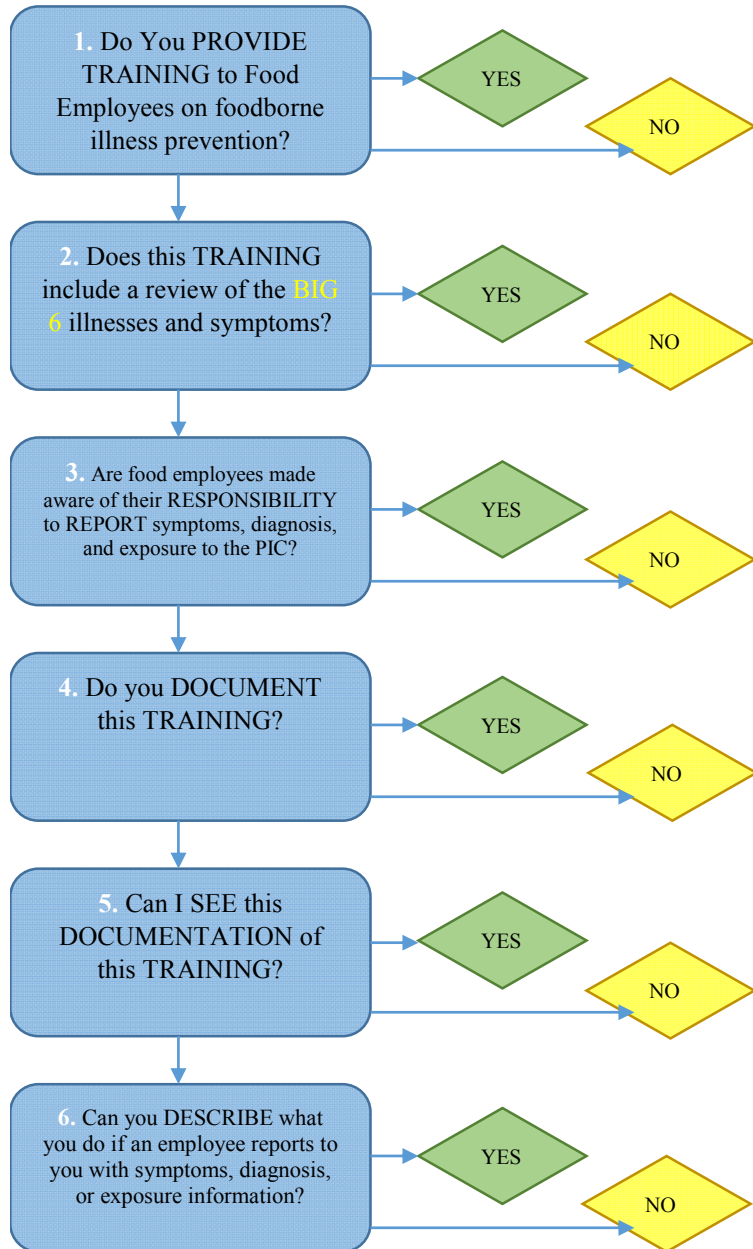
Employee Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Person in Charge \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

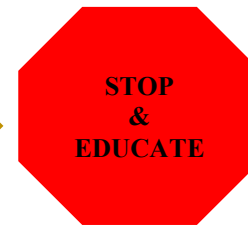
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## FOOD EMPLOYEE HEALTH POLICY ASSESSMENT OF COMPLIANCE STATUS DECISION TREE



If "YES" to **all 6** questions, mark Item 2-2A on the inspection form as **IN** compliance.

**\*\*"YES"** = PIC can explain their policy to the extent that when an employee is "sent home", the PIC knows when or under what circumstances the employee can return to work; **OR** PIC knows where to locate exclusion/restriction information (i.e. posted, online search, manager's manual, etc.).



If "**NO**" at any point as you progress through the decision tree, **STOP and EDUCATE** by providing and reviewing the employee health handouts. **Mark Item 2-2A** on the inspection form as **OUT** of compliance.

Cite DPH Chapter 511-6-1 Rule -.03(4)(a)

FYI.....

**Regulatory Authority** is encouraged to establish policy to select ONE employee at RANDOM during an inspection and request that the employee verify that they have been INFORMED of his/her responsibility to report the following to management:

- Symptoms
- Exposures
- Diagnosed Illnesses

*(They are not required to quote this information from memory but should be able to locate this information on a form or document similar to K-30 to demonstrate compliance.)*

FYI.....

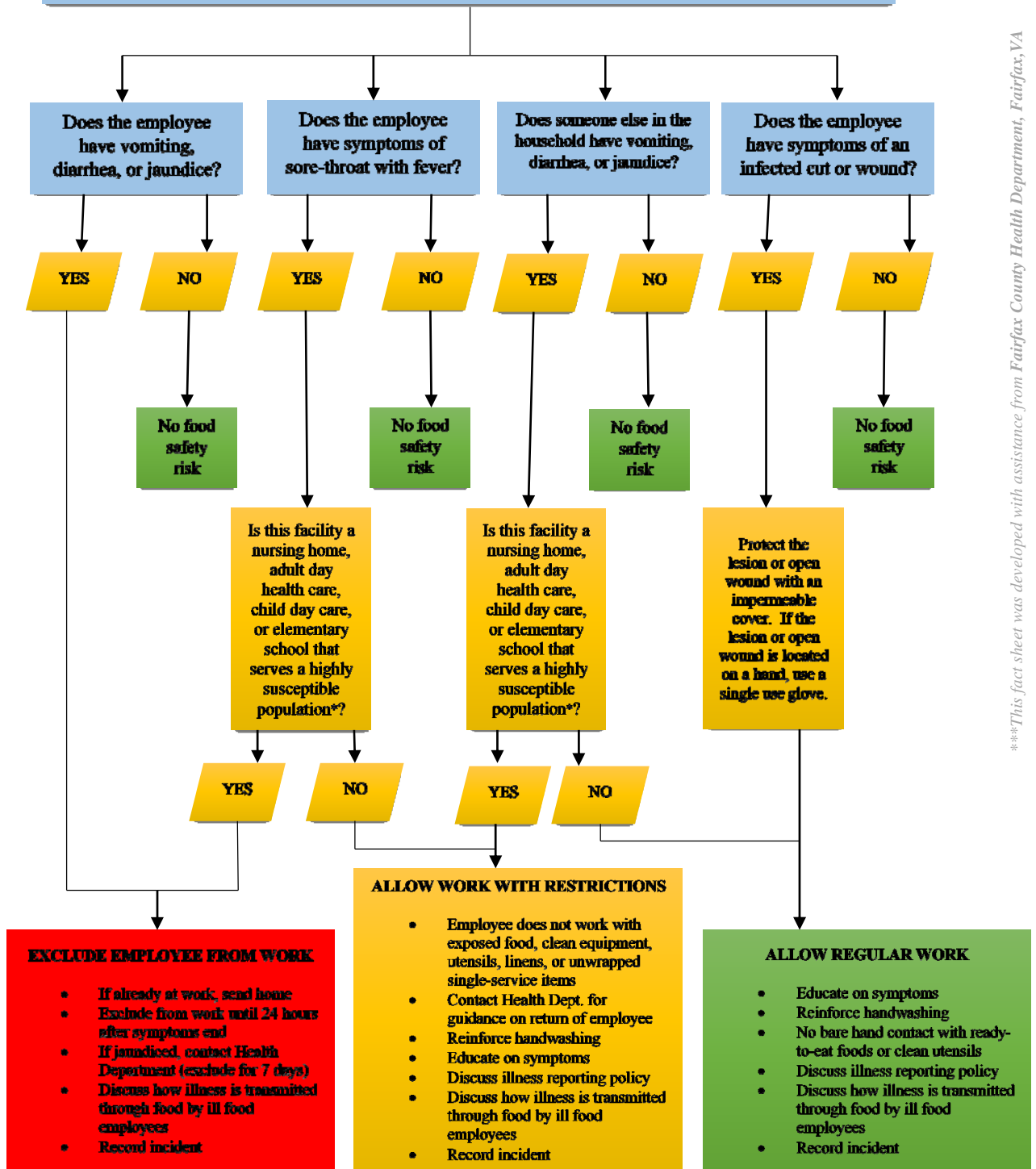
This policy **MUST REFLECT** the current Food Code provisions. Verbal communications of the policy **MUST BE SPECIFIC** to illnesses and symptoms that require reporting. **NON-SPECIFIC** statements such as, "sick or ill employees are not allowed to work," are not acceptable.

## Employee Illness Decision Guide for PIC/CFSM

Use this flow chart to determine if an employee with an *undiagnosed* illness can spread the illness through food and should be restricted or excluded from work.

\*Note: **Highly Susceptible Population**, means any person that is immunocompromised, preschool age children, or older adults (seniors).

Employee calls manager to report illness, PIC/CFSM asks EACH of the following questions:



\*\*\*This fact sheet was developed with assistance from Fairfax County Health Department, Fairfax, VA

If a food employee reports a **diagnosis** of Norovirus, *E. coli* 0157:H7, *Shigella*, Hepatitis A virus, nontyphoidal *Salmonella*, or *Salmonella* Typhi (or if someone in their household is diagnosed with one of these illnesses), immediately contact your local Health Department for **guidance**. To find your local Health Department visit <http://dph.georgia.gov/district-office-directory>