

# Preventing the Spread: Employee Illness

**Exclude the foodhandler** from working in the establishment if:

- The foodhandler has been diagnosed with Norovirus or hepatitis A by a medical professional.
- The foodhandler is experiencing symptoms such as

- Vomiting



- Diarrhea



- Jaundice



Yellowing of skin and eyes

**Foodhandlers must report health problems to their manager before working.**

**If foodhandlers become ill while working, they must immediately report their condition to their manager.**

**Foodhandlers can contaminate food at every step in its flow through the establishment.**

**Good personal hygiene is a critical protective measure against contamination and foodborne illness.**

## Other Actions to Be Taken

- Inform the regulatory agency if the foodborne virus is diagnosed by a medical practitioner.

## Return-to-Work Policies

- Vomiting—24 hours after symptom has gone away or written release from a medical practitioner upon return to work.
- Diarrhea—24 hours after symptoms have gone away or a written release from a medical practitioner upon return to work.
- Jaundice—Written release from a medical practitioner upon return to work.
- **NOTE:** *Return-to-work policies differ in each jurisdiction. Check with your local regulatory agency to learn the requirements for reporting foodborne illness and exclusion/restriction policies.*



### PREVENT CONTAMINATION OF FOOD BY VIRUSES

Wash hands with soap and water

- after using the bathroom.
- before and after preparing food.

**Week 5: Preventing the Spread:**  
**Employee Viral Illness**

**manager**

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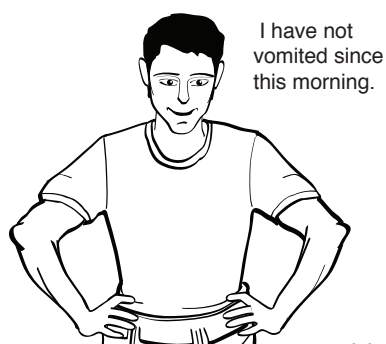
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# Going Back to Work

**Directions:** Take a look at the illustrations below and decide whether the foodhandler could go back to work. In the space next to the picture, circle YES or NO.



Yes / No



Yellowing of skin and eyes

Yes / No



Written release to work

Yes / No

# Should He Stay or Should He Go?

Patrick is a new sandwich maker at the restaurant where you are also a sandwich maker. You both now share this responsibility. Feeling uncomfortable because he isn't his usual cheerful self, Patrick tells you that he was up vomiting the previous night and is still very nauseous and sick. He wants to go home, but he does not want to give the manager reason to doubt his commitment to his new job. Directions: Should Patrick stay at work or go home? In the space below, explain why/why not.

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