



# 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 Department, Boise  
Environmental Health Division - 327-7499

Central District Health Department  
707 N. Armstrong Pl.  
Boise, ID 83704-0825