

# VAN WERT COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

1179 Westwood Dr., Suite 300, Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Phone: (419) 238-0808 Fax: (419) 238-9571 Email: vwchd@vanwertcountyhealth.org

## CONSUMER ADVISORY REQUIREMENTS:

**PURPOSE OF ADVISORY:** The consumer advisory is meant to inform consumers, especially susceptible populations (*i.e. elderly, children, pregnant mothers, immunocompromised*) about the increased risk of foodborne illness from eating raw or undercooked animal foods.

**WHEN A CONSUMER ADVISORY IS REQUIRED:** If an animal food such as eggs, beef, fish, lamb, milk, poultry, or shellfish that is raw, undercooked, or not otherwise processed to eliminate pathogens is offered in a ready-to-eat form or as an ingredient in another ready-to-eat food.

### Examples of Risky foods:

- Raw or undercooked eggs (Caesar dressing, custards, ice cream, meringue, sauces)
- Raw or rare meat (hamburgers, jacquarded/pinned meats, flavor injected meats, etc)
- Raw or undercooked seafood (sushi, clams, oysters, etc)

These types of risky foods need to be fully described in the menu selection. An asterisk referring to a footnote containing further information may also be used. For example, you can list Caesar Salad:

- (A) Caesar Salad (prepared with raw egg); or
- (B) Caesar Salad\*

\* Contains raw or undercooked food products.

In addition, if you serve raw or undercooked products the information of one of these statements should be included advising the health risks associated with consuming raw or undercooked products:

- (A) Regarding the safety of these items, written information is available upon request
- (B) Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness; or
- (C) Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs, may increase your risk of foodborne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions.

**The statement shall be displayed on brochures, deli cases, menus, stickers, table-tents, placards, or other effective written means. The intent is to have the advisory conveniently displayed for consumer awareness at the point of order (where the customer orders their food).**

*See back of sheet for examples*

## EXAMPLES OF CONSUMER ADVISORY:



Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, eggs or unpasteurized milk may increase your risk of foodborne illness.



Our Caesar dressing contains raw eggs. FYI, consumption of raw eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness.



All our hamburgers are cooked to the required minimum temperatures. Upon request, we will cook to your specifications. However, consuming raw or undercooked hamburgers may increase your risk of foodborne illness.



Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions.

**If you prefer a more detailed advisory we suggest the following;**



Eating raw or undercooked meat, poultry, eggs, or seafood poses a health risk to everyone, but especially to the elderly, young children under age 5, pregnant women and other highly susceptible individuals with compromised immune systems. The proper cooking of such animal foods reduces the risk of illness.



There is a risk associated with consuming raw or undercooked foods such as meat, poultry, or seafood products. If you have chronic illness of the liver, stomach, blood, or have immune disorders, you are at greater risk of illness from raw oysters and should eat oysters fully cooked. If unsure, consult your physician.

**Note: These are only suggestions. Any of the above advisories are acceptable provided they contain the necessary information. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact your local health department.**

**Van Wert County Health Department  
1179 Westwood Dr., Suite 300  
Van Wert, OH 45891  
419-238-0808 Ext. 105**