



ILLNESS

Fact sheet No:10

Why do I have to provide a medical certificate before I can start work?

Some common gastrointestinal illnesses can be transferred through food. It is important that food handlers do not pass on these illnesses to customers. A medical certificate shows that you are not infected at the time of testing.

What happens if I become infected after my medical certification?

It is easy to become infected with gastrointestinal illness. This can happen at any time. Vomiting and diarrhoea are common symptoms of many gastrointestinal illness.

If a food handler develops vomiting and/or diarrhoea, s/he must **STOP** handling food and report the symptoms to their supervisor/manager. The infected food handler should stay off work for **48 hours AFTER** the symptoms have stopped or they have clear medical certificate.

What illnesses or symptom should be reported to the supervisor/manager?

If you have any of the following you must report it to your employer and stay away from handling food until you are well

- Any vomiting and/or diarrhoea
- Any cuts or skin lesions (boils, sores) that are infected
- Any discharge or infection from the eyes, nose or mouth
- Sore throat or tonsillitis caused by Streptococcus
- Jaundice
- Tuberculosis

If the owner or Food business Operator is suffering from any of these illnesses, he must also stop handling food until recovered

