

Employee Foodborne Illness Video Script – English

What to expect as an employee during a foodborne illness outbreak investigation

If you are watching this video, your manager has informed you of the foodborne illness outbreak.

Health department staff are conducting an investigation of this outbreak.

A foodborne illness outbreak is when two or more people become ill from the same food.

Foodborne illness can cause vomiting and diarrhea or more severe symptoms, which may lead to hospitalization and even death.

An outbreak can involve just one restaurant – like when food is handled unsafely, or employees come to work ill.

Or, an outbreak can involve a supply source – like contaminated food making people ill who ate at different places.

Outbreaks can happen even when good food safety practices are used.

Here is what to expect going forward.

Someone from the health department will contact you to ask questions about your job duties, what days you worked, and if you have felt ill recently.

This interview usually takes 5 to 10 minutes.

This helps us determine how the outbreak happened and stop any further spread of illness to customers or staff.

Sometimes people pass on a foodborne illness without even knowing they are sick. We are not interested in assigning blame, only in stopping the outbreak.

Your answers are confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside this investigation.

Your interview may be done where you work, or over the phone **but will always be private.**

Here is some legal information we are required to share with you before the interview:

Any information you give us about yourself (including test results) is considered private data. Only public health officials involved in this outbreak investigation will have access to the private data.

However, we will also want to share some of this information with management staff.

We will ask if we have your permission to share this information with your managers.

You are not required to answer these questions but if you choose not to, you will not be allowed to work in food service because we will not know if you could spread illness to others.

If you do answer these questions, it will help us understand how this outbreak happened and how to stop it from making more people sick.

We will ask if you will answer our questions.

Some things we may ask are:

- Your name
- Age
- Address
- Phone number
- Job title

This information is used only if we need to contact you about this outbreak or need to deliver a stool sample kit to your house.

We will also ask about any symptoms you may have had recently, such as:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Bloody stools
- Cramps
- Nausea
- Fever

It will help to have your calendar ready when we call so we can review what days you worked, or what days you remember feeling ill.

We will also ask about your job duties and if you ate employee meals.

Have your manager tell us if you want to do the interview in a language other than English. We can get a bilingual inspector or an interpreter.

We look forward to talking with you soon.

For more information, contact your local health department or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Health Department at 612-673-2301 or Health@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850. Para asistencia 612-673-2700
Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.