



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE • COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN NO. 67-91-DES

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED FOOD POISONINGS AND SYMPTOMS

Bacillus cereus

Symptoms: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
Onset Time: 1 to 16 hours*
Food Involved: Boiled / fried rice, cereals, soups, custards, sauces, meatloaf, sausage, cooked vegetables
Specimens to collect: Stool, vomitus
**Heat labile type (diarrheal) has an onset time of 8-16 hrs.*

Clostridium Perfringens

Symptoms: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, Abdominal pain
Onset Time: ½ to 2 hours
Food Involved: Chemicals induced into any food item
Specimens to collect: Stool, vomitus

Escherichia coli

Symptoms: Abdominal pain, diarrhea, muscular pain, vomiting, chills, headache, nausea, fever
Onset Time: 5 to 48 hours
Food Involved: Various foods, water
Specimens to collect: Stools, rectal swabs

Shigellosis

Symptoms: Abdominal pain, diarrhea, fever, bloody mucoid stools
Onset Time: 24 to 72 hours
Food Involved: Salads, water
Specimens to collect: Stools, rectal swabs

Campylobacter enteritis

Symptoms: Abdominal pain, diarrhea, fever, malaise, headaches
Onset Time: 48-168 hours
Food Involved: Raw milk, water
Specimens to collect: Stools, rectal swabs, blood

Chemical Contamination

Symptoms: Abdominal pain, diarrhea
Onset Time: 8 to 22 hours
Food Involved: Cooked meat, poultry, gravy
Specimens to collect: Stools

Salmonella

Symptoms: Abdominal pain, diarrhea, chills, fever, nausea, vomiting, malaise
Onset Time: 6 to 72 hours
Food Involved: Poultry, meat, eggs
Specimens to collect: Stools, rectal swabs

Staphylococcal (Staphylococcus aureus)

Symptoms: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abrupt/violent abdominal pain
Onset Time: 1 to 8 hours
Food Involved: Ham, meat, poultry, cream filled pastry, food mixtures
Specimens to collect: Stools, vomitus, rectal swabs, nasal swabs

*Document available in an alternate format upon request

OFFICES IN: RIVERSIDE, BLYTHE, CORONA, HEMET, INDIO, MURRIETA AND PALM SPRINGS
For more information call (888) 722-4234

Department Web Site – www.rivcoeh.org