



## Environmental Public Health: Prevention, Preparedness & Education

*Working to keep you and your food safe.*

### *Did you know that?*

- Ill food handlers are a major cause of food borne illness.
- Food handlers who experienced diarrhea or vomiting within the last 48 hours can pass their illness on to customers and coworkers even though they feel fine now.
- People can spread many different types of illnesses to others before they even know they are sick themselves.
- Proper hand washing, including proper hand drying, only removes about half of the disease-causing germs present on your hands. That is why no bare hand contact with ready-to-eat food is so important.
- Food service managers are **required by law** to monitor the health of their employees.
- Food managers and handlers are **required by law** to report certain illnesses to the Department of Health.
- Viruses can live on surfaces, such as refrigerator door handles and food preparation tables for up to 48 hours.
- Viruses are responsible for more than 50% of all food borne illness outbreaks (symptoms include acute diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting) in the United States.
- Some bacteria produce toxins (poisons) that cannot be destroyed by cooking or freezing.
- Millions of Americans suffer from a food borne illness each year.
- **You** can prevent the spread of foodborne illness by following good hygienic practices and not working with food or clean dishware when you are ill or have been in close contact with someone who is ill.

**Florida**  
**HEALTH**  
Volusia County