



Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 3717-1-02.3 Management and personnel: hygienic practices.

Effective: September 5, 2024

(A) Food contamination prevention - eating, drinking, or using tobacco products.

(1) Except as specified in paragraph (A)(2) of this rule, an employee will eat, drink, or use tobacco products only in designated areas where the contamination of exposed food; clean equipment, utensils, or linens; unwrapped single-service or single-use articles; or other items needing protection cannot result.

(2) A food employee may drink from a closed beverage container if the container is handled to prevent contamination of:

(a) The employee's hands;

(b) The container; and

(c) Exposed food; clean equipment, utensils, or linens; or unwrapped single-service or single-use articles.

(B) Food contamination prevention - discharges from the eyes, nose, and mouth.

Food employees experiencing persistent sneezing, coughing, or a runny nose that causes discharges from the eyes, nose, or mouth are not permitted to work with exposed food; clean equipment, utensils, or linens; or unwrapped single-service or single-use articles.

(C) Use of bandages, finger cots, or finger stalls.

If used, an impermeable cover such as a bandage, finger cot, or finger stall located on the wrist, hand or finger of a food employee working with exposed food will be covered with a single-use glove.



(D) Hair restraints - effectiveness.

Food employees are to effectively restrain hair by wearing hair restraints such as hats, hair coverings or nets, beard restraints, and clothing that covers body hair, that are designed and worn to effectively keep their hair from contacting exposed food; clean equipment, utensils, or linens; or unwrapped single-service or single-use articles. This provision does not apply to food employees such as counter staff who only serve beverages and wrapped or packaged foods, hostesses, and wait staff if they present a minimal risk of contaminating exposed food; clean equipment, utensils, and linens; and unwrapped single-service and single-use articles.

(E) Animals - handling restriction.

Food employees are not permitted to care for or handle animals that may be present such as patrol dogs, service animals, or pets that are allowed as specified in paragraphs (O)(2) to (O)(5) of rule 3717-1-06.4 and rule 3717-1-08.5 of the Administrative Code. If food employees wash their hands as specified under paragraphs (B) and (C)(3) of rule 3717-1-02.2 of the Administrative Code, they may handle or care for their own service animals; fish in aquariums; or molluscan shellfish or crustacea in display tanks.