



To protect, nurture, and advance  
the health of our community

# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## **RESPONSE PROCEDURES FOR VOMITING AND DIARRHEAL EVENTS**

The 2020 Wisconsin Food Code requires that all food establishments have procedures for responding to vomiting and diarrheal events. This requirement is specified under Regulation 2-501.11 and states:

*A Food Establishment shall have procedures for Employees to follow when responding to vomiting or diarrheal events that involve the discharge of vomitus or fecal matter onto surfaces in the Food Establishment. The procedures shall address the specific actions Employees must take to minimize the spread of contamination and the exposure of Employees, consumers, Food, and surfaces to vomitus or fecal matter.*

NOTE: Effective cleaning of vomitus and fecal matter in a food establishment should be handled differently from routine cleaning procedures.

- Vomiting and diarrheal accidents shall be cleaned up using the attached procedural checklist for immediate actions and clean up steps.
- Mix a chlorine bleach solution that is stronger than the chlorine solution used for general cleaning. The CDC recommends 1000-5000 ppm or 5-25 tablespoons of household bleach per gallon of water. Note: Quaternary ammonia is not an effective sanitizer for Norovirus.
- Employees who are assigned to clean up vomit or diarrheal incidents should be properly trained in the cleanup procedures and be provided the resources to protect themselves from the exposure to any pathogens. The employees responsible for clean-up of these events are at a significantly higher risk of becoming ill. It is important that they understand safe practices for cleanup of the contaminated area. This includes using an effective process, materials and person protective equipment (PPE).
- A clean up kit shall be available and include:
  - Disposable gloves, mask, gown/apron, shoe covering
  - Absorbent towels and a bucket or spray bottle for bleach solution
  - Disposable dustpan, scraper and mop head
  - Yellow tape, cones or signs to restrict the area
  - Absorbent material to soak up liquids, trash bags with ties and bleach

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*Embracing change, partnerships, and best practices to lead  
Oneida County to a healthy and equitable future*

## Clean up of Vomit and Diarrhea Events – Procedure

Establishment Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Chemical Use: \_\_\_\_\_ Chemical Concentration: \_\_\_\_\_

**On discovery of a vomit or diarrheal event, immediately take the following actions:**

Immediate Actions	Action completed (initial)
Segregate area. Post signage and/or an employee to block entry in to contaminated area, whether in food prep area or dining area.	
If the incident occurred in the food prep area, stop all food prep and serving operations.	
Discard any food that has any possibility of being contaminated. Consider everything within 25-ft radius of the incident as being contaminated.	
Single-service items and portion packages are not practical to disinfect, discard these items.	
Have employees focus on frequent, proper handwashing and glove use.	
If the incident occurs in the dining area, remove/discard potentially contaminated self-service items such salt/pepper, creamers, etc.	
Disinfect menus that may have been contaminated.	
Remove customers within a 25-ft radius and encourage handwashing for customers.	
<b>Clean up Actions</b>	
Put on personal protective equipment (PPE), disposable gloves, apron, shoe covers, face mask/shield or goggles for eyes.	
Spread absorbent over the vomit or diarrhea spill. Allow the absorbent to soak up any liquid and become solidified.	
Scoop up the absorbent and place without agitation into a disposable bag.	
Apply disinfectant (chlorine bleach solution) to the entire area and allow it to sit for 10 minutes.	
Use paper towels or wipes to clean up the disinfectant and place into a disposable bag.	
Remove PPE and place it into disposable bag.	
Close bag with a twist tie and immediately transfer to outside dumpster.	
Incident Notes & Comments	

**I certify that all immediate clean-up actions were taken and correctly done.**

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Establishment Manager/Person In Charge