

CONSUMER ADVISORY REQUIREMENTS:

PURPOSE OF ADVISORY:

The consumer advisory is meant to inform consumers, especially susceptible populations (*i.e. elderly, children, pregnant mothers, immunocompromised*) about the increased risk of foodborne illness from eating raw or undercooked animal foods.

WHEN A CONSUMER ADVISORY IS REQUIRED:

If an animal food such as milk, eggs, beef, fish, lamb, poultry or shellfish that is raw, undercooked, unpasteurized or not otherwise processed to eliminate pathogens is offered in a ready-to-eat form. These types of risky foods need to be fully described in the menu selection. An asterisk referring to a footnote containing further information may also be used.

Examples of Risky foods:

- Raw or undercooked eggs (Caesar dressing, custards, sauces, Hollandaise, etc.)
- Raw or rare meat (beef, poultry, jacquard/pinned meats, flavor-injected meats, etc.)
- Raw or undercooked seafood (fish, sushi, clams, oysters, etc.)
- Unpasteurized Milk

The statement shall be displayed on brochures, deli cases, menus, stickers, table-tents, placards, or other effective written means. The intent is to have the advisory conveniently displayed for consumer awareness at the point of order (where customer orders their food).

Examples of Consumer Advisory:

- *“Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, eggs or seafood may increase your risk of foodborne illness, and can be dangerous to those who are children, elderly, pregnant mothers or immunocompromised.”*
- *“All meats are cooked to the required minimum temperatures. Upon request, we will cook to your specifications. However, consuming raw or undercooked meats may increase your risk of foodborne illness.”*
- *“Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions.”*

Note: These are only suggestions. Any of the above advisories are acceptable provided they contain the necessary information pertinent to your facility. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Washington County Health Department at 240-313-3400.