

There are all manners of pathogens in our environment, in the air and on our persons. Some of these can cause food-borne illness, especially to highly susceptible populations like pre-school students.

Our goal as PIU volunteers is to make and assemble and distribute pathogen free healthful meals.

You may not work with ready to eat (RTE) food if you have any of the following:

- Sneezing, coughing, runny nose or discharge from eye, ear or nose.
- Sore throat or fever
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Jaundice

I was very pleased last year that on several occasions volunteers stayed away because of perceived illnesses. I would encourage you to stay away if you just don't feel quite right. You may be in the early stage of a communicable illness. If you slept poorly and are therefore very tired you are much more apt to inadvertently contaminate your gloves. If your glove is contaminated anything you touch will be contaminated.

We strictly adhere to Ottawa County Health Department rules. The church had to make some changes to be in compliance. We had three Health Department inspections last year. We will see them again.

All volunteers can enter Church of the Saviour through the east lobby doors. The hand washing sink is to the left in the kitchen.

All volunteers must wash their hands when they come in. If you are a brown bag lunch assembler that's all that is required because you do not actually touch the ready to eat food.

If you are a sandwich maker or snack packer there is more involved, because you do touch the food. Before you wash, re-move watches and bracelets and cover your hair with cap or net. Then you thoroughly wash and rinse your hands and wrists for at least twenty seconds. Do not turn off the dirty faucet with your clean thumb; use a paper towel. Then proceed to the gym touching nothing in route.

Don't touch anything until your hands are thoroughly dry. Then you can glove up, touching the gloves as little as possible. Once gloved don't touch anything unless it has been washed, rinsed and sanitized (WRS). That includes your hair and face and any other objects around you like waste baskets, chair backs, door knobs, and bread and cookie wrappers.

Before you arrive at the Church of the Saviour, I will have washed, rinsed and sanitized our work surfaces (plastic tables), knives and spatulas and the peanut butter jars. I will be washed and gloved and I will handle the loaves of bread, cereal boxes, cookie wrappers, etc., but I will not touch any of the RTE foods that you will be handling because my gloved hands will not be as contaminate free as yours are.

If you contaminate your gloves by touching your hair or nose or any other possibly contaminated surface you must re-glove and you always change both gloves, but you do not need to rewash your hands.

If you answer your phone with gloved hands you will need to re-glove. If you take off a glove and handle your phone you must rewash your hands and re-glove. If you have an open sore on your hands or forearms it must be covered by a brightly colored band aid; no flesh colored band aids. I have them.

I will not be counting how frequently you re-glove. I delight in seeing volunteers policing themselves and re-gloving. Gloves are cheap, food borne illnesses are not. During our snack packing sessions I probably re-glove ten to fifteen times.

Jesus said, "whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me." We are feeding the least of His people. Let's make a good impression.

Peace,

John P.
Certified Food Manager