Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is the government body that administers the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code). The Code sets out the requirements for *Food Safety Practices* and *General Requirements* in Food Safety Standard 3.2.2. It is up to the states/territories to administer The Code. Please check you individual state/territory requirements for training in food safety via the table listed below.



**Food Safety – Fact Sheet**

Food handlers

People handling and preparing foods should take all reasonable precautions to make sure the food they are handling is safe and suitable to be consumed. There are specific requirements regarding:

* Health • Food preparation • Gloves
* Hygiene • Hand washing

# Health

* If a food handler has a contagious disease or is suffering gastric symptoms such as diarrhoea or vomiting, they should not go to work.

# Hygiene

* Hands should be washed and dried thoroughly before handling food and after handling raw foods, as well as at any other time when there might be a risk of spreading germs (for example: after going to the toilet, sneezing, coughing, eating, drinking and touching the hair, scalp or body).
* Cover any sores, scratches etc. with a waterproof bandage or dressing.
* Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your arm. ***Avoid using your hands and turn away from others and food if you cough or sneeze.***
  + Dispose of tissues immediately in a rubbish bin.
  + Always wash and dry hands thoroughly before handling food.
* Clothing (including aprons) should be clean.
* Don’t handle food unnecessarily.
* Do not smoke around food or food surfaces.

# Food preparation

* Benches should be kept clean.
* Avoid cross contamination by:
  + thoroughly washing and drying hands, and
  + any utensils used after handling raw foods.

# Hand washing

* Wet hands with warm running water.
* Add soap and rub over all areas of the hands, including fingers, thumbs and backs of hands.
* Wash for at least 10 seconds.
* Dry thoroughly using a single-use paper towel.
* Alcohol-based hand rubs may be used, but they don’t work as well if you have dirt on your hands.

# Gloves

* If you choose to use gloves, they must be exchanged for a new pair or disposed of at any time when you would normally wash your hands; for example, after:
  + handling raw food
  + using the toilet
  + coughing, sneezing, using a tissue or handkerchief
  + touching the hair, scalp or body, or
  + if they are torn.

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| **State/Territory Resources for Food Safety and Hygiene** | |
| **Australian Capital Territory** | |
| Department | Australian Capital Territory Department of Health |
| Phone | 13 22 81 |
| Email | [HealthACT@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthACT@act.gov.au) |
| Website | <http://www.health.act.gov.au/>(viewed 6 May 2010) |
| Information | **Food Safety**  Policy Document – *Nourish: The Facts – The Food In ACT Schools Guidelines*, page 41  <http://www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&policy=2025288088&did>  =10107160&sid= (viewed 6 May 2010) |
| **New South Wales** | |
| Department | New South Wales Food Authority |
| Phone | 1300 552 406 |
| Email | [contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au](mailto:contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au) |
| Website | <http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/>(viewed 6 May 2010) |
| Information | **Fact Sheet – Health and Hygiene Requirements of Food Handlers**  <http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/_Documents/industry_pdf/health_> hygiene\_of\_food\_handlers.pdf (viewed 6 May 2010) |
| **Northern Territory** | |
| Department | Department of Health and Families |
| Phone | (08) 8999 2400 |
| Email | Not available |
| Website | <http://www.health.nt.gov.au/>(viewed 6 May 2010) |
| Information | **Fact Sheets – Skills and Knowledge, Information for Food Handlers, Hand Washing and Cleaning and Sanitising**  [http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Environmental\_Health/Food\_Safety/index.](http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Environmental_Health/Food_Safety/index) aspx#FoodSafetyFactSheets (viewed 6 May 2010) |
| **Queensland** | |
| Department | Queensland Health – Environmental Health Branch |
| Phone | (07) 3234 0938 |
| Email | <mailto:ehu@health.qld.gov.au> |
| Website | <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ehworm/food/agencies.asp> (viewed 6 May 2010) |
| Information | **Teaching and Training Resource – Food Safety Matters**  *(A fee may apply to this resource package)*  <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/foodsafetymatters/>(viewed 6 May 2010) |
| **Tasmania** | |
| Department | Department of Health and Human Services |
| Phone | 1300 135 513 |
| Email | <http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/contact/email_us> |
| Website | <http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/health> and wellbeing/public\_and\_ environmental\_health/related\_topics/food\_safety (viewed 6 May 2010) |
| Information | **Policy Document – Tasmanian Food and Nutrition Policy**  accessed via web link above |

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| **State/Territory Resources for Food Safety and Hygiene** | |
| **South Australia** | |
| Department | Government of South Australia, Department of Health, Food Policy and Programs Branch |
| Phone | (08) 8226 7100 |
| Email | [food@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:food@health.sa.gov.au) |
| Website | <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/food-index.htm>(viewed 6 May 2010) |
| Information | **Food Safety posters:**  **‘Beware the danger zone’ ‘Don’t cross contaminate’ ‘Wash your hands’**  **‘Tell us if you are ill’** <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/Food/food-safety-posters.htm> (viewed 6 May 2010) |
|  | **Poster – Food Safety Fundamentals** <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/Food/food-safety-pamph.htm> (viewed 6 May 2010) |
|  | **‘Bug Busters’ DVD**  Ring number above and request a copy |
| **Victoria** | |
| Department | Victorian Government Health Information |
| Phone | 1300 364 352 |
| Email | [Foodsafety@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:Foodsafety@dhs.vic.gov.au) |
| Website | <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/foodsafety/>(viewed 6 May 2010) |
| Information | **Fact Sheet – Food Handlers Skills and Knowledge** <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/foodsafety/bus/skills_knowledge/food_> handler.htm (viewed 6 May 2010) |
| **Western Australia** | |
| Department | Government of Western Australia, Department of Health, Public Health |
| Phone | (08) 9388 4999 |
| Email | [foodunit@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:foodunit@health.wa.gov.au) |
| Website | <http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/1/50/2/food.pm> (viewed 6 May 2010) |
| Information | **Fact sheets, policy documents** found at above website |

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| **National Resources** | |
| Department | Food Standards Australia New Zealand |
| Phone | 1300 652 166 |
| Email | [information@foodstandards.gov.au](mailto:information@foodstandards.gov.au) |
| Website | Food Safety Practices and general requirements  <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/contactus/contactform.cfm> (viewed 6 May 2010) |
| Information | **Fact Sheet – Food Handling Skills and Knowledge, Health and Hygiene – Responsibilities of Food Handlers**  <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/thecode/> foodsafetystandardsaustraliaonly/standard322.cfm (viewed 6 May 2010) |
| Organisation | FOCiS (formerly Federation of Canteens in Schools) |
| Phone | (07) 4171 0753  State/territory contacts are listed on the website |
| Email | [sandy@focis.com.au](mailto:sandy@focis.com.au) |
| Website | <http://www.focis.com.au/>(viewed 6 May 2010) |
| Information | **Looking after OUR KIDS – DVD and booklet** |