

Consumer Advisories

FACT SHEET #18 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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CONSUMER ADVISORY

Consumption of raw or undercooked animal origin foods (such as meat, poultry, eggs, milk, seafood or shellfish) that are not otherwise processed to eliminate pathogens poses a potential risk. Some highly susceptible individuals who have suppressed immune that are

The *Consumer Advisory* applies to:

- All food establishments in which foods of **animal origin or animal ingredients** are sold or served for human consumption in *a raw or under cooked form*.
- All types of food establishments in which there is a reasonable likelihood that the food will be consumed without first being, thorough cooking - such as restaurants, quick-service operations, carry-outs, and sites where groceries are obtained that have operations such as delicatessens or seafood departments.
- **Establishments that serve highly susceptible populations are prohibited from serving under-cooked or raw animal foods.**

Examples of food types that would require a Consumer Advisory that typically are made with raw animal products and are served in a less than cooked form are:

- Dressings or sauces such as hollandaise, bearnaise or Caesar
- "Establishment-made" Mayonnaise
- Shellfish served raw on the half shell
- Sushi made with raw fish
- Steak tartare
- Hamburgers/other meat *, "medium rare, rare"
- Soft-boiled, soft-scrambled, or soft fried shell eggs;
- Omelets, French toast, bread puddings;
- Mousses, meringues and eggnogs;
- Any other food made with a raw animal food ingredient served in a less than thoroughly cooked state.

**Whole muscle intact beef does not require a Consumer Advisory.*

It is the responsibility of the food establishment to include a correctly written CONSUMER ADVISORY:



Via a *Disclosure Statement*: **that informs the consumer that a particular food contains raw or undercooked animal ingredients; and**

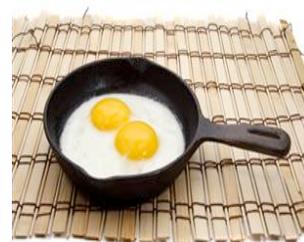
- Via a *Reminder Statement*: **that warns the consumer of the "increased risk of foodborne illness associated with raw animal derived foods, especially if the person has certain medical conditions", or "additional written information is available upon request"**.
- Methods of informing consumers may include menu advisories, labels, table tents, deli case, placards, brochures, and any other written means.



The Disclosure identifier may be a simple asterisk next to a menu item that is referenced to a footnote on the menu to reveal that the animal product or particular ingredient is raw or undercooked with the Reminder Statement.

Listed below are two examples of advisory statements:

- "Our Caesar dressing is made with raw eggs. Regarding the consumption of raw or undercooked animal products, written information is available upon request."



- "Hamburgers cooked rare or medium rare or pink in the middle may be undercooked and are served only upon request. Whether dining out or preparing food at home, consuming raw or undercooked animal foods may increase your risk of foodborne illness."

If pasteurized liquid eggs or pasteurized shell eggs are used, a Consumer Advisory is not require