

Serving Raw or Undercooked Food Items

Customer Advisory Requirements

Serving raw or undercooked animal foods is allowed (except for licensed health care facilities and schools) if the consumer is adequately informed by a written disclosure and a reminder. The purpose of the disclosure and reminder is to inform consumers, especially susceptible populations such as the elderly, children, pregnant mothers, and the immunocompromised, about the increased risk of foodborne illness from eating raw or undercooked animal foods.

Common Foods Served Raw or Undercooked:

Oysters, eggs, ceviche, Caesar dressing, Hollandaise sauce

Disclosure:

A disclosure is a written statement that “discloses” or informs the customer of menu items that are served raw or undercooked. It can be done in the menu item description or by an asterisk next to the menu item denoting a footnote placed somewhere on the menu stating that the food is served raw or undercooked.

Sample Menu Descriptions:

1. **Raw-egg Caesar salad** – The menu states the item is raw or undercooked in the actual description.
2. ***Caesar salad** – Listing the menu item with asterisk combined with the disclosure below:
**These items are served raw or undercooked or may contain raw or undercooked ingredients.*

Reminder:

Additionally, the information of one of these statements should be displayed, advising customers of the health risks associated with consuming raw or undercooked products:

- Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions.
- Written information regarding the safety of these food items is available upon request.

The Disclosure and Reminder can be communicated in a number of written options, including: brochures, deli case or menu advisories, label statements, table tents, placards, or by other effective written means.



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