

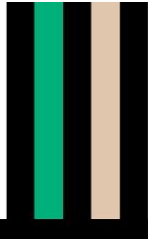


Winnebago County

Health Department

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Health  
ALERT



## Norovirus Illness Linked to Raw Oysters

April 6, 2022

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) is alerting restaurant and food establishments of the current U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigation into a [norovirus outbreak linked to raw oysters from British Columbia, Canada](#). The FDA has confirmed that potentially contaminated raw oysters harvested in the south and central parts of Baynes Sound, British Columbia, Canada, were distributed to restaurants and retailers in 13 states, including Illinois. WCHD has not identified any norovirus cases associated with raw oysters at this time. Food contaminated with norovirus may look, smell, and taste normal.

### Restaurant and food retailers must not sell oysters harvested from the following harvest locations within Baynes Sound:

- #1407063, #1411206, #278737 in BC 14-8 and #1400036, in BC 14-15.
- “Baynes Sound” will show on product tags as “14-8” and/or “DEEP BAY”, or “14-15.”.

### Retailers should dispose of any these products by throwing them in the garbage or returning to their distributor for destruction.

Oysters may be a source of pathogens that may make people sick. Strict adherence to procedures to prevent cross-contamination of food processing equipment and the food processing environment must be followed:

- Washing hands with warm water and soap following the cleaning and sanitation process.
- Cleaning and sanitizing containers that are used to hold bulk product.
- Regular and frequent cleaning and sanitizing of food contact surfaces and utensils used in food preparation.

Employees should monitor themselves for symptoms of norovirus and stay home if sick. Employees must remain off work for at least 48 hours after once the symptoms have ended.

Most common symptoms of norovirus are diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, or stomach pain.

If you receive a complaint from an individual being sick after eating oysters, please contact the WCHD Communicable Disease Team.

Please contact the WCHD Communicable Disease Program 24/7 at 815-720-4050 if you have any questions or concerns regarding Norovirus.

