

# Hand Sanitizers & Single-Use Gloves

Hand sanitizers and single-use gloves are not substitutes for handwashing. Only after proper handwashing has been completed, should hand sanitizers or gloves be used. If used correctly, both can provide additional food protection. However, if used incorrectly, they can become another source of food contamination.

## Hand Sanitizers

Hand sanitizers are not intended to replace soap in the handwashing process. They are not effective in removing dirt or other organic materials. However, if used after proper handwashing procedures, they can reduce the number of bacteria and viruses that may remain on your hands. The use of hand sanitizers is not required by the Minnesota Food Code.

## Single-Use Gloves

Although single-use gloves can provide additional food protection, they are only effective if placed on properly washed hands and changed at appropriate times during the food operation. The Minnesota Food Code requires that employees limit direct hand contact with food. Wearing gloves is one way to meet this requirement. Single-use gloves are not specifically required unless the employee has a boil, infected wound or other lesion on their hand. In this case, the employee must apply a waterproof bandage and wear a single-use glove or finger cot over the bandage.

## When Single-Use Gloves Are Used:

- Wash hands thoroughly before and after wearing gloves, and when changing to a new pair of gloves.
- Change gloves between handling raw foods and cooked or ready-to-eat foods.
- Discard gloves when torn, contaminated, or removed for any reason.
- Change gloves when interruptions occur in the food operation.
- Change gloves frequently, at least once per hour.
- Never reuse gloves under any circumstances.

**Single-use gloves are to be used only once and for one specific purpose only.**

## For Further Information Contact the Following MDH District Offices:

Bemidji	◆	(218) 308-2100
Duluth	◆	(218) 723-4642
Fergus Falls	◆	(218) 332-5150
Mankato	◆	(507) 344-2700
Marshall	◆	(507) 537-7151
Metro	◆	(651) 201-4500
Rochester	◆	(507) 206-2700
St. Cloud	◆	(320) 223-7300

To request this document in another format, call 651-201-4500 or TTY 651-201-5797.

IC# 141-0827



Environmental Health Services Section  
625 North Robert Street, P.O. Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
651-201-4500  
<http://www.health.state.mn.us>