

## State of Washington – Department of Health

The following provides the State with the authority to obtain records and documents necessary for the determination of consumer food purchases during investigation of foodborne illnesses within their jurisdiction. Questions regarding specific situations, the documents that can be requested, or the statutory citations listed should be directed to the authorized State agency. You may access contact information for the state agency on the Directory of State and Local Officials webpage at:

<http://dslo.afdo.org>

### Washington Administrative Code

#### **§ 246-215-08520 Investigation and control (2)(a) Procedure when disease transmission is suspected**

(1) When a possible foodborne illness incident is reported to any food employee, the person in charge of the food establishment shall:

- (a) Immediately report the incident to the regulatory authority; and
- (b) Remove from sale and refrigerate any suspect foods until released by the regulatory authority.

(2) When the regulatory authority suspects that a food establishment, or its employees, might be the source of a foodborne illness, the regulatory authority shall take appropriate action to control the transmission of disease. This action may include any or all of the following:

- (a) Secure records that might enable identification of persons potentially exposed to the disease, or require additional assistance in locating such persons;
- (b) Secure the illness history of each suspected employee;
- (c) exclude any suspected employee from working in the food establishment until, in the opinion of the regulatory authority, there is no further risk of disease transmission;
- (d) Suspend the permit of the food establishment until, in the opinion of the regulatory authority, there is no further risk of disease transmission;
- (e) restrict the work activities of any suspected employee;
- (f) Require medical and laboratory examinations of any food employee and of his/her body discharges;
- (g) Obtain any suspect food for laboratory examination;
- (h) Require the destruction of, or placement of a hold order on, all suspected food; and
- (i) Limit, substitute, or restrict menu items or food handling practices that might be associated with causing illness.

(3) The provisions of chapter 246-100 WAC, Communicable and Certain Other Diseases, apply.