



BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Notice to Restaurants and Retail Establishments Selling or Serving Oysters in BC

Date posted: December 20, 2024

We are receiving reports of norovirus-like illness associated with the consumption of raw and lightly cooked oysters. Norovirus causes vomiting and diarrhea. We are still in the process of investigating these illnesses.

NOTE: As of **December 21, 2024**, there is a **CFIA food recall warning for certain oysters**. Refer to the recall notice for affected products.

- **Do not consume, use, sell, serve, or distribute recalled products.**
- [Certain Taylor Shellfish Canada ULC brand Oysters recalled due to norovirus](#)

Please follow these recommendations to limit the risk of illness and to help with the investigation.

1. Inform customers about the risk of consuming raw oysters so they can make an informed decision. Please refer customers to the required menu warning and advise customers they can lower their risk of illness by consuming cooked oysters.
2. Inform customers which varieties of raw oysters you are selling or serving to them. This will help them remember what they ate.
3. Track which oysters varieties are served on sampling plates, during happy hours and buck a shuck events.
4. Use the shellfish receiving log to record all incoming shipments of oysters and record the shellfish tag supplier and lot number. Store shellfish tags by date served and bundle with date label. This will help Environmental Health Officers retrieve the information needed in the event of an investigation.
5. When preparing cooked oysters, cook oysters to an internal temperature of 90°C (194°F) for a minimum of 90 seconds.
6. If you receive a report of illness associated with consumption of oysters from a customer, refer them to their [local public health office \(health authority\)](#).

Further guidelines for restaurants and retail about raw oysters are available on the [Food Premises Guidelines page](#) under the 'Fish and Shellfish' accordion. Guidance includes a food safety plan for service of raw oysters and a shellfish receiving log.

Affected harvest areas are being closed and will re-open when contamination is cleared (consult the [Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program Manual Section 6.43](#) for further information about this process).