

Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering: Unit 1:

Food related causes of ill health (AC4.1)



Food related causes of ill health

Ill health could be caused by any of the following:

- **bacteria**
- **allergies**
- **intolerances**
- **chemicals** such as:
 - detergent and bleach
 - pesticides and fertilisers.

Intolerances

Some people feel unwell when they eat certain foods. Common foods that cause intolerance include:

- milk (lactose)
- cereals (gluten)
- artificial sweeteners (Aspartame)
- flavour enhancers (MSG).

Food poisoning bacteria

The main causes of food poisoning bacteria are:

- **Bacillus cereus:** found in reheated rice and other starchy foods.
- **Campylobacter:** found in raw and undercooked poultry and meat and unpasteurised milk.
- **Clostridium perfringens:** found in human and animal intestines and raw poultry and meat.
- **E-coli:** found in raw meat, especially mince.
- **Listeria:** found in polluted water and unwashed fruit and vegetables.
- **Salmonella:** found in raw meat, poultry and eggs.
- **Staphylococcus aureus:** found in human nose and mouth.

Food and the law

Food can cause ill-health if it is stored, prepared and/or cooked incorrectly or if a person unknowingly eats a food that they are allergic or intolerant to. All hospitality and catering provision need to follow laws that ensure food is safe to eat. They are:

- **Food Labelling Regulations (2006):** A label must show all ingredients including allergens, how to store and prepare the food, where it came from, the weight of the food and a use-by or best-before date.
- **Food Safety (General Food Hygiene Regulations) 1995:** This law makes sure that anyone who handles food - from field to plate – does so in a safe and hygienic way. The **HACCP** system is used throughout the hospitality and catering sector.
- **Food Safety Act 1990:** This law makes sure that the food people it is safe to eat, contains ingredients fit for human consumption and is labelled truthfully.

Food allergies

An allergy is a reaction to something found in food. In the case of a severe allergy, the reaction can lead to death.

Common allergens include:

Cereals	Eggs	Seeds
Soya	Fish and shellfish	Strawberries
Peanuts	Wheat	Milk and dairy
Celery	Tree nuts	Mustard