



**Information of the public health department on the instruction pursuant to § 43 (1)  
of the German Law on Protection against Infection [IfSG]**

(Source: [www.rki.de](http://www.rki.de))

for the files of the instruction participant

**Who has to be instructed?**

Before the first exercise of an activity in the food sector, one needs instruction and a certificate, pursuant to § 43 (1) of the German Law on Protection against Infection [IfSG], through his/her competent public health department:

1. Persons who **commercially produce, handle or place the** following foodstuffs **on the market**:
  - Meat, poultry meat and products thereof,
  - Milk and milk-based products,
  - Fish, crabs or molluscs and products thereof,
  - Egg products,
  - Infant and young child nutrition,
  - Ice cream and ice cream products,
  - Bakery products with non-baked or heated filling or topping,
  - Delicatessen, raw food and potato salads, marinades, mayonnaises, other emulsified sauces, nutritional yeasts,
  - Sprouts and seedlings for raw consumption as well as seeds for the production of sprouts and seedlings for raw consumption,

**and** thereby come contact with them, **directly** (with the hands) **or indirectly** (over food contact materials and articles, such as dishes, cutlery and other work materials),

**OR**

2. Persons engaged in **kitchens** of taverns, restaurants, canteens, cafes or other establishments with or for **community catering**.

**Why should special precautions be observed?**

In the case of the above-mentioned foods, **pathogens** can particularly very easily multiply. By eating food contaminated with pathogens, people can become seriously ill with food infections or poisoning. A large number of people may be affected in restaurants or institutions with or for community catering.

For this reason, a high degree of self-responsibility and compliance with hygiene rules must be demanded from every employee, for the purpose of the protection of the consumer and for his/her own protection.



**When may the above mentioned activities not be exercised?**

1. Pursuant to the German Law on Protection against Infection [IfSG], insofar as you have **symptoms** which indicate any of the following diseases, or which you have been diagnosed to have by a medical physician, you may **not** be **active** or **employed** in this sector:
  - **Acute infectious gastroenteritis** (sudden, contagious diarrhoea) caused by salmonella, shigella, *campylobacter*, rotaviruses, noroviruses or other diarrheal pathogens,
  - **Cholera,**
  - **Typhoid or paratyphoid,**
  - **Hepatitis A or E** (inflammation of the liver),
  - **Infected wounds or skin diseases,** with regard to which there is a possibility that their pathogens can be transmitted to other people through food.
2. Insofar as the findings of the examination of a **faeces sample** from you, indicates the presence of one of the following pathogens:
  - **salmonella,**
  - **shigella,**
  - **enterohemorrhagic *Escherichia-coli*-bacteria (EHEC),**
  - **cholera bacteria,**

there is an **activity ban or an employment ban** in the food sector. The activity or employment ban also exists, insofar as you excrete these pathogens regardless of whether you exhibit symptoms (see below).

**Note:**

The public health department may permit derogations from the prohibitions under this provision, insofar as measures are taken, through which the transmission of the listed diseases and pathogens can be prevented.

**The following symptoms indicate the diseases mentioned:**

- **Diarrhoea** (at least 3 amorphous faeces in 24 hours),
- **Nausea, vomiting or abdominal pain,**
- **Fever** (Body temperature  $\geq 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ),
- **Yellow colouring of the skin and of the eyeballs,**
- **Wounds** or open areas of **skin diseases,** insofar as they are **reddened,** have a **smear coat,** are **oozing** or **swollen.**

**Who needs to be informed?**

Insofar as you experience one or more of the above symptoms, you should always seek the advice of your general practitioner or company doctor. You should also inform him/her that you work in a company in the food sector. You are moreover also required to inform your superiors about the disease immediately.



### Special notes for employers/principals

- Employers also have to submit the declaration pursuant to § 43 (1) no. 2 of the German Law on Protection against Infection [IfSG], insofar as if they belong to the category of persons designated on page 1 of this leaflet.
- They may only perform the activities described on page 1 of the leaflet, insofar as they have received a certificate from the public health department pursuant to § 43 (1) of the German Law on Protection against Infection [IfSG] or are in the possession of a health certificate pursuant to § 18 of the German Federal Law on Contagious Diseases [BSeuchG].
- In the case of the exercise of this activity for the first time, the certificate of the public health department may not be older than three months.
- They have to instruct persons who carry out the activities listed on page 1 of the leaflet, upon the commencement of their activities and every two years, on the provisions of the German Law on Protection against Infection [IfSG] listed on page 2 and to document the participation in the instruction.
- They must keep their own certificate and those of their employees, as well as the documentation on the latest instruction, within reach at the workplace, and to provide the employees of the competent authority with all the certificates mentioned, on request. In the case of activities at different locations, the submission of a certified copy is sufficient.
- Insofar as you personally or one or more of your employees, exhibit one of the symptoms listed on pages 1 and 2 of this leaflet, or insofar as one of the diseases listed there or the excretion of one of the listed pathogens has been diagnosed by a medical physician, you must take hygienic measures, which are appropriate to prevent the spreading of the pathogens at the workplace. For further information in this regard this, please contact the competent food monitoring authority and your public health department.
- This instruction does not replace regular instruction pursuant to the Food Hygiene Ordinance.

### Further information

#### Public health department of the City of Düsseldorf

[www.duesseldorf.de/gesundheitsamt](http://www.duesseldorf.de/gesundheitsamt)

*[...public health department]*

#### Robert Koch Institute

[www.rki.de](http://www.rki.de)

This information sheet is also available in Arabic, English, French, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Turkish on the website:

[www.rki.de>Infektionsschutz>Infektionsschutzgesetz>Meldebögen>Belehrungsbögen](http://www.rki.de>Infektionsschutz>Infektionsschutzgesetz>Meldebögen>Belehrungsbögen)

*[...Infection Protection>Infection Protection Law> Reporting Sheets>Instruction sheets]*

#### The German Federal Center for Health Education [BZgA]

[www.infektionsschutz.de](http://www.infektionsschutz.de)

*[...Infection protection]*

Information sheets on infectious diseases in six different languages - German, English, French, Turkish, Russian and Arabic

#### The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment [BfR]

„Hygienic rules in communal gastronomy“

[www.bfr.bund.de>Publikationen>Merkblätter>Merkblätter](http://www.bfr.bund.de>Publikationen>Merkblätter>Merkblätter) für weitere Berufsgruppen

*[...Publications>Fact sheets>Fact sheets for further professional groups]*