



Rhode Island Department of Health  
Office of Food Protection

[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

(401) 222-2749

## CONSUMER ADVISORIES

The RI Food Code (3-603.11) requires that a **written** consumer advisory be provided for the following foods:

- Foods of animal origin which are served raw such as sushi, shellfish, or steak tartare
- Foods of animal origin which are undercooked such as hamburgers, or eggs; (This includes undercooking these foods at the customer's request)
- Foods containing a raw or undercooked item of animal origin such as Caesar salad made with raw eggs.



The written advisory must inform the consumer of the significantly increased risk to especially vulnerable consumers, such as the immunocompromised, who eat these raw or undercooked foods.

Suggestions for consumer advisories are as follows:

- If only one type of item is served raw or undercooked such as hamburgers:

***Hamburgers are cooked to customer's request. Consumption of raw or undercooked foods of animal origin may increase your risk of food borne illness. Consumers who are especially vulnerable to food borne illness should only eat food from animals thoroughly cooked.***

- If several menu items of animal origin are served raw or undercooked or contain foods of animal origin that are raw or undercooked. Place an asterisk (\*) next to each of the items on the menu and put a written consumer advisory on the bottom of the menu as follows:

***\*This item is raw or partially cooked and can increase your risk of food borne illness. Consumers who are especially vulnerable to food borne illness should only eat seafood and other food from animals thoroughly cooked.***

The size of the print for the consumer advisory should be the same as the rest of the menu.

If the establishment does not have a written menu, the consumer advisory should be posted **within view** of the consumer.

Buffets where raw or undercooked foods of animal origin are served must provide customers with a written consumer advisory. If written menus are not given to customers at buffets then a written consumer advisory that is visible to the consumer must be displayed at the buffet.

**Note: Undercooked hamburgers must not be served to children 12 or under**