

## How Can I Communicate the Importance of Personal Health to Volunteers?

Most people are not comfortable talking to others about diarrhea and vomiting. Here are some suggestions for communicating the importance of "Personal Health" with volunteers.

- Explain the link between the illness symptoms of vomiting and diarrhea and foodborne illness. Understanding how foodborne illness is spread may help them be more willing to exclude themselves from preparing food for certain events or functions if they are not well.
- Stress the seriousness of preventing foodborne illness. The more conversations you have with everyone about the causes of foodborne illness, the more comfortable everyone will become with the topic.
- Post in your kitchen the "Volunteer Illness Decision Guide" illustrating the when volunteers should not take part in food preparation.
- Some volunteers may hide illness because they don't want to miss an event or leave the rest of the team short-handed. Help your volunteers understand that a foodborne illness outbreak can be devastating and that taking these precautions can minimize that risk. Keeping ill volunteers out of the food service operation will help ensure that food is being safely prepared.



SAFETY ALWAYS A WINNER !