

Answers to Health & Safety Questions asked at Cooks Network Meeting Thursday February 22, 2007

Responses provided by

KYM MORRIS, NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT • MAY 2007

- Q. Should you change or wash gloves when transitioning between activities?
- A. Yes, always take the gloves off between activities; wash hands; complete next activity; wash hands again, and then put new gloves on.
- Q. Can dry food be used in sensory boxes?
- A. Yes, providing that children are washing their hands before and after playing in the sensory bin.
- Q. Before lunch is served, if cooks are asked to assist with the children, what should their procedure be in terms of personal hygiene?
- A. Take off apron and set aside. Take off gloves and discard. Leave hair net on. Wash hands. Complete new activity. Upon returning to the kitchen: put apron back on, wash hands, and put on new gloves.
- Q. Can cooks assist with janitorial duties (i.e. bathroom cleaning) in between lunch and afternoon snack, providing proper hand washing procedures are followed?
- A. Yes, providing the same hand washing procedures are followed and protective gear used, as outlined above.
- Q. Are all individuals who are in the kitchen (i.e. preparing their own food) required to wear hair nets or are they required to put one on after a certain length of time?
- A. Yes, any individual doing any kind of food prep should wear the same protective gear as the cook, regardless of the length of time they are in the kitchen.
- Q. Can children assist with food preparation on special occasions, and if so, are there any limitations to their involvement?
- A. Yes they may, providing they are being supervised, have followed proper hand washing procedures, and are assisting with the preparation of low risk foods. For example, high risk foods are raw meat and eggs.
- Q. Can programs make and use their own play dough?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Can wooden spoons be used or must they be plastic?
- A. It doesn't matter, providing that they are of sound construction (i.e. no cracks or breaks) and may be cleaned and sanitized effectively.
- Q. Are there limitations to kitchen wall decorating materials (i.e. wall paper)?
- A. No, providing that they are smooth, non-absorbent, and may be adequately cleaned and disinfected. Wood is not a good choice, wallpaper is fine.