

EC Highlights: EAT, DRINK, AND BE HEALTHY! FOOD & DRINK AT YOUR WORKSPACE

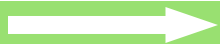


Healthcare is a busy world, and many of us like to eat on-the-go, but it's important to take a moment and review the rules and guidelines for food and drinks in patient care areas.

Adapted from the [Standard Precautions Policy](#):

- In patient care areas, managers can designate specific locations where drinks with lids are allowed, such as “the main nursing station lower level counter.” These locations must be kept separate from areas where lab specimens or contaminated equipment are handled.

These activities:



- Food storage/availability
- Eating
- Utensil storage/availability
- Drinking from open containers or coffee cups

Must be kept from these areas:

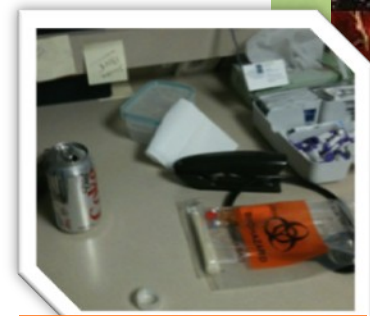
- Direct patient care areas
- Surgery and procedure rooms
- Charting pods/areas outside patient rooms
- Spaces where there are medications, patient care equipment, specimens and/or bloodborne pathogens

It is a delicate balance—there are human needs, behaviors & convenience, infection prevention & control, and cleanliness & safety to consider. So remember: liquids may be allowed, but not food—please reserve eating for break times in appropriate areas. In patient care areas, drinks with lids are allowed in designated locations, such as a marked section of the nursing station counter.

Please also consider how this looks to our guests—is your drink visible to the public or the patients?

Questions?

Call Environmental Health & Radiation Safety at 503-494-7795 or Infection Prevention and Control at 503-494-6694 .



Would you like some biohazard with your snack?

Joint Commission - Environment of Care Standards guide OHSU in this material. The Environment of Care Committee offers this tool to help remind employees of safety policies and best practices. **Please post or share this information with staff.**

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