

File No. 1/Std/SP (L&C/A)/Advisories/FSSAI  
**Food Safety and Standards Authority of India**  
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)  
**FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110 002.**

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Dated, the 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

**Subject: "Currency Notes and Coins: A source of microbiological contamination"**

1. Currency notes and coins are widely exchanged for goods and services by all sections of society. Handling of currency with unclean and soiled hands, use of saliva during counting, and storage under unhygienic conditions leads to its contamination with harmful microorganisms. Cross contamination from currency is a risk to human health leading to a wide variety of diseases including food poisoning and skin, respiratory and gastrointestinal infections. Children, pregnant women, aged and immune-compromised persons are particularly vulnerable to such infections.
2. Food vendors, especially street food vendors, often prepare and serve food, and collect money from patrons using the same hand. It is advised that food handlers, food sellers and others should avoid handling currency and food simultaneously. It is recommended that gloves be used to handle food and bare hands be used to handle currency. Ideally, handling of food and money should be physically separated. After handling currency, hands should be thoroughly washed before touching food and vice versa.
3. Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UTs are requested to initiate a systematic campaign for generating awareness amongst all citizens to discourage the simultaneous handling of food and currency notes/coins.

  
29.3.2018

(Kumar Anil)  
Advisor (Standards)

To

Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UTs

Copy to:

1. PPS to Chairperson, FSSAI
2. PS to CEO, FSSAI
3. CMSO, FSSAI – For social media campaign