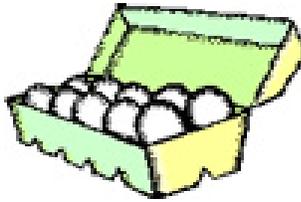


Cheers for "Eggstra"

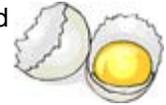
Safe Holiday Recipes



You may want to update holiday recipes that use raw or lightly-cooked eggs to avoid the risk of foodborne illness. That's because we now know that refrigerated grade A eggs with clean, uncracked shells - those usually assumed to be safe - can be contaminated with *Salmonella enteritidis* bacteria. Scientists strongly suspect that bacteria can be transmitted from infected laying hens directly into the interior of the eggs before the shells are formed.

Eggs must be cooked thoroughly in order to kill any bacteria (such as salmonella) that may be present. If your eggnog recipe calls for raw eggs, **it is not safe**. Likewise, neither is Hollandaise sauce or mousse. Don't worry about cakes, cookies and candies, though. Eggs used in baking get thoroughly cooked and candy (such as divinity) containing eggs reaches temperatures far above that needed to kill bacteria. **However, raw cookie dough is not safe to eat!**

But, back to eggnog, way back. For centuries, our English ancestors made a similar milk and egg beverage that was cooked and served warm. Named for a small drinking vessel known as a "noggin", eggnog was often served in colonial times to colonists who were "under the weather".



Today it is a popular holiday drink made with raw eggs and served chilled, sometimes with spirits added. While adding alcohol may inhibit bacterial growth, it cannot be relied upon to kill bacteria which may be present in raw eggs.

To make safe eggnog, cook or microwave it to 160°F. or until the egg mixture thickens enough to coat a spoon (see accompanying recipes). Refrigerate it at once. When refrigerating a large amount of eggnog, divide it into several shallow containers so that it will cool quickly.



Do not fold raw beaten egg whites into the cooked mixture. It hasn't been proven that raw egg whites are free of salmonella bacteria. Commercial eggnog is prepared with pasteurized eggs and requires no cooking. Eggnog made with egg substitutes is also safe since these frozen commercial products have been pasteurized.

Hollandaise sauce and chocolate mousse are usually made with raw eggs. Update these recipes for safety's sake. A safe Hollandaise sauce can be made with egg substitutes and margarine. This version has the added bonus of containing no cholesterol. When making chocolate mousse, melt the chocolate with the liquid called for in the recipe and add the eggs and continue to heat gently until the mixture reaches the safe temperature of 160°F.

Holidays are a fun but hectic time. By egg-proofing your recipes for safety, you will have one less thing to worry about.

NEWS FOR EGG LOVERS

New studies indicate that today's average large egg contains about 213 milligrams of cholesterol. This is approximately 22% less than previously reported. More sophisticated nutrient analysis techniques and changes in how chickens are bred and fed account for this reduction.

HOLIDAY EGGNOG

1 quart 2% milk 1 teaspoon vanilla
6 eggs 1 cup whipping cream, whipped
¼ teaspoon salt ground nutmeg
½ cup sugar

Calories: 135 per ½ cup *Cholesterol: 120 mg per ½ cup *Yield: 2 quarts

Heat milk in large saucepan until hot (do not boil or scald). While milk is heating, beat together eggs and salt in a large bowl, gradually adding the sugar. Gradually add the hot milk mixture to the egg mixture. Transfer the mixture back to the larger saucepan and cook on medium-low heat. Stir constantly with a whisk until mixture thickens and just coats a spoon. Thermometer should register 160°F. Stir in vanilla. Cool quickly by setting pan in a bowl of ice or cold water and stirring for about 10 minutes. Cover and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled, several hours or overnight. Pour into a bowl or pitcher. Fold in whipped cream and dust with ground nutmeg.

LOW-CHOLESTEROL EGGNOG

½ cup egg substitute 1 teaspoon vanilla
2 teaspoons sugar 1 teaspoon rum flavoring (optional)
1 can (13 oz.) evaporated, skim milk ground nutmeg
¾ cup skim milk

Calories: 96 per ½ cup *Cholesterol: 4 mg per ½ cup *Yield: 3 cups

Whip egg substitute and sugar together and combine with 2 types of milk and flavoring. Mix well. Refrigerate overnight. Dust with nutmeg before serving.

ZERO-CHOLESTEROL HOLLANDAISE SAUCE

½ cup egg substitute 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
pinch of cayenne pepper *cup margarine

Calories: 35 per tablespoon *Cholesterol: 0 *Yield: 1 cup

Put egg substitute, lemon juice and cayenne pepper into blender or food processor. Heat margarine to boiling, either on the stove or in a glass measuring cup in the microwave. Turn on blender and pour boiling margarine through lid. Blend. Sauce should thicken slightly.

CHOCOLATE MOCHA MOUSSE

6 ounces semisweet chocolate ½ cup sugar
¼ cup water 2 tablespoons coffee liqueur
1 teaspoon instant coffee powder 1 cup heavy cream, whipped
2 large eggs, lightly beaten

Calories: 387 per ½ cup *Yield: six ½ cup servings

Combine chocolate, water and coffee powder in a heavy saucepan. Heat over very low heat until chocolate melts. Add eggs. Stirring constantly, heat until mixture reaches 160°F. Stir in sugar and coffee liqueur. Cool quickly by setting pan in a bowl of cold water, stirring occasionally for about 10 minutes. Fold whipped cream into chocolate mixture. Spoon into six 4 ounce dessert dishes. Refrigerate 2 hours or more before serving.