

STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS ANALYSIS

Staphylococcus aureus is an organism commonly found on skin and mucous membranes of humans. For this reason, it may be easily transmitted when handling or processing food if proper handling precautions are not taken. Once the food becomes infected and if environmental and nutritional conditions are conducive to growth, the organism produces an enterotoxin, which, when ingested, causes food borne illness. The isolation of *S. aureus* from cooked foods generally indicates post processing contamination and a need for improved handling and processing of food products and utensils.