

**TOWN OF STOUGHTON BOARD OF HEALTH
BOARD OF HEALTH POLICY**

FOOD HANDLER'S CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Authority

The Stoughton Board of Health hereby adopts the following policy to protect the public health of the community.

Purpose

The Stoughton Board of Health recognizes that an ideal food protection program is supported by a partnership effort between industry and food regulatory officials. Together, educated food handlers and effective inspection programs can reduce the incidence of high risk practices which can lead to foodborne disease outbreaks. Other benefits of food handler training include providing the industry with a more professional approach to food safety, improving communication between industry and regulations, increasing consumer confidence in their food supply and avoiding negative economic impact often associated with foodborne disease outbreaks. Food establishments which have trained food handlers are also more likely to be in compliance resulting in less inspection and enforcement time spent by the Board of Health.

Accordingly, the Board of Health declares that the purpose of this policy is to improve the general sanitation conditions in Stoughton food establishments, thus protecting the public health and welfare of the public.

Food manager/handler certification will ensure that these employees have knowledge of the principles and practices of food sanitation with the primary purpose of preventing foodborne illness and protecting the public health in accordance with Chapter X of the State Sanitary Code, 105 CMR 590.000 Minimum Standards for Food Establishments.

Definitions

The following word and phrases, whenever used in this policy shall be construed as defined in this section. Any terms not specifically defined herein are to be construed in accordance with the definitions of Chapter X of the State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 590.000.

"Approved Food Handler Certification Program" - means a food safety training course provided by a Massachusetts Certified Food Safety Training for Food Handler Training and Testing.

"Board"- refers to the Town of Stoughton Board of Health.

"Certified Food Handler"- An individual employed by the establishment who has completed a Massachusetts Certified Food Safety Training program and passed an exam as described in the Certification Section.

"Food Establishment" - means any food service establishment, retail food store, or residential kitchen where food is prepared for retail sale.

"Food Service Establishment"- Any place where food is prepared and intended for individual portion service and includes the site at which individual portions are provided. The term includes any such place, regardless of whether consumption is on or off the premises, and regardless of whether there is a charge for the food. The term includes but is not limited to, restaurants, retail food stores, supply vehicles, delicatessens that offer prepared food in individual service portions, mobile food units, pushcarts and catering operations.

"Outbreak of Symptomology from Foodborne illness"- Means an incident in which two or more persons experience a similar symptom usually gastrointestinal in nature, after ingestion of common food and after an epidemiological analysis implicates the food as the source of the illness or one case of botulism or chemical food poisoning appears.

"Person"- includes an individual, partnership, corporation and association or other legal entity.

Food Handler Certification Required

Each person employed in a food service establishment or any person as deemed by the Health Department is required to be a certified food handler.

Each food establishment where foods are prepared and/or served shall ensure that each person employed or any person as deemed by the Health Department is required to be a certified food handler. No person shall use the title "Certified Food Handler" or in any way represent themselves as a handler certified in food safety unless they shall hold a current certificate pursuant to this policy.

Certification

Certification shall be achieved by completing a food safety and sanitation course provided by any Massachusetts Certified Food Safety Training.

Food establishments renewing their food permits for the period of July 1st through June 30th will have three (3) months (until October 1) to make all current employees certified food handlers. Each new employee shall obtain a certified food handlers certificate within 30 days of their employment start date. Certified food managers are still required by Massachusetts State Sanitary Code Chapter X 105 CMR 590.000 to train all staff in proper food handling techniques especially new employees prior to the 30-day deadline for them obtaining a food handler's certificate.

Certificate not Transferable

A Certified Food Handler certificate is not transferable from one person to another.

Penalty for Violation

Any food establishment with a current permit who violates any provision of this policy and/or does not comply with these requirements may be subject to the suspension or revocation of the establishment's food permit.

Waivers, Fees and Exemptions

The Board may waive the applicability of any provision of this policy, if, in its opinion, the enforcement thereof would be unjust or be contrary to the public interest or modify the requirements for occasional

non-profit groups. For example, private clubs and/or religious establishments who participate in "pot luck" only events, and have notified the Board of Health of such practices may be exempt from this policy. Provided, however, that the decision of the Board shall not conflict with the spirit of any minimum standards established by this policy. Any such waiver shall be determined by the Health Department from review of the group's operation.

Employees in retail only establishments and/or employees whose sole duties are not directly involved in food preparation (i.e. cashiers, stock) may be exempt from this policy.

Anyone who holds a current Food Manager Certification as approved by the State is exempt from this policy.

Severability

If any provision, clause, sentence or paragraph of this policy or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this policy and to this end the provisions are declared to be severable.

Effective Date

This policy shall take effect on July 1, 2018

ADOPTED:

Voted unanimously May 17, 2018