



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

2525 GRAND AVENUE • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815 • (562) 570-4000

May 16, 2011

**Re: New California Food Handler Card Law (Senate Bill 602)**

Dear Food Facility Operator:

As you may be aware, a new State food safety law (SB 602) was passed recently requiring all individuals working in a food facility involved in the preparation, storage or service of food to obtain a food handler card by July 1, 2011. However, a proposed modification to the law (SB 303) has been made to extend the compliance deadline to January 1, 2012. In light of this proposed modification, the City of Long Beach Health Department will limit enforcement of this law to education and notification of the requirements through the end of the year. This will allow additional time to notify employees of the new requirement. Effective January 1, 2012, you must maintain records documenting that all employed food handlers possess a valid food handler card. A copy of the food handler card will be considered sufficient documentation by our Department. We will request to see these records during our health inspections on or after January 1, 2012.

There are currently three organizations approved by the State to give the new Certified Food Handler Card training, test, and card. They are:

- National Registry of Food Safety Professionals: [www.NRFSP.com](http://www.NRFSP.com)
- National Restaurant Association (ServSafe California Food Handler Program): [www.FoodHandlerUSA.com](http://www.FoodHandlerUSA.com)
- Prometric: [www.prometric.com/foodsafety](http://www.prometric.com/foodsafety)

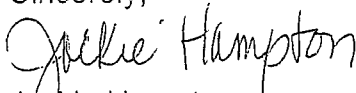
Food facility employees subject to this requirement can be referred to any of these organizations to obtain a food handler card. Online courses are also available from these organizations. If the employee passes the test, they will receive a food handler card valid for three (3) years. The employee will need to show you the card so you can document the information for inspection purposes, but the employee is to retain the card.

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Please read the attached comprehensive list of questions and answers relating to this new law as it will answer most, if not all, of your questions. The attachment also provides web addresses for accessing the full text of the law, and the proposed clarification language.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 562-570-4144.

Sincerely,



Jackie Hampton  
Food Program Supervisor  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Bureau of Environmental Health

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