



### NEW FOOD HANDLER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IN ILLINOIS

The following **NON-RESTAURANT** Food Handler Training questions and answers are based on changes to the Illinois Food Service Sanitation Code:

**Who is considered a Food Handler?** A food handler or food employee means a person working with unpackaged food, food equipment or utensils, or food-contact surfaces; this does not include unpaid volunteers in a food facility.

**Who is required to have Food Handler Training?** Any food handler working in the State of Illinois is required to have training, unless that person has a valid Illinois Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC) or is an unpaid volunteer. If someone is working in a facility that is not a food handler on a regular basis, but fills in when needed, they must have food handler training.

**Who is NOT required to have Food Handler Training?** Anyone working in a facility that is not a food handler by definition or any food handler that already has a valid Illinois Department of Public Health Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC).

### **FOOD HANDLERS WORKING IN A NON-RESTAURANT**

**What is a non-restaurant?** Non-restaurants are facilities such as nursing homes, long-term care facilities, licensed daycare centers and homes. Hospitals, schools and retail food stores are also included.

**What is the timeline for implementation?** All food handlers working in non-restaurants shall have training completed by **July 1, 2016**. Enforcement will be limited to notification and education July 1- December 31, 2016.

**What type of training is offered for non-restaurants?** Any food handler training course that has been registered and approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health is acceptable.

**How is the training administered?** Training can be on-line, computer, classroom, live trainers, remote trainers and by certified food service sanitation managers.

**Can a “train the trainer” approach be used, where one person attends a training and then teaches others within their facility?** Yes, the train the trainer approach could be used for those food handlers working in non-restaurants, but the training course being used must be approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health and all food handlers must take a written assessment.

**Will everyone receiving food handler training receive a certificate?** Not every food handler training course will issue a certificate, but proof of training must be available in the facility upon inspector request.

**How long is the certificate valid?** Those working in non-restaurants are not required to take another food handler training unless they go to work for another employer.