



Pat Quinn, Governor
LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, Director

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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 14, 2014

To: Local Health Department Administrators and Directors of Environmental Health
Illinois Department on Aging (IDA), Office of Older American Services

From: Patricia Welch, Food Program Manager

Re: Food Handler Training for Nutrition Program Congregate and Home Delivered Meals

A conference call between the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Division of Food, Drugs and Dairies and the Illinois Department on Aging (IDA), Office of Older American Services was held on August 12, 2014 to discuss whether congregate and home delivered meals as provided under their Elderly Nutrition Program fall under the definition of “restaurant” as defined in Public Act 98-0566. IDA has been receiving calls from these sites as local health departments (LHDs) have classified them differently (30% as restaurants and 70% as non-restaurants).

The Older Americans Act (OAA) has a nutrition program for congregate and home delivered meals, for example “Meals on Wheels” or “Peace Meal”. The meals used in this program are provided by local providers or are prepared in one of their senior sites. As the majority of the meals produced go to seniors via congregate meals or home delivered meals for which there is no charge (only donations) they should be classified as a non-restaurant.

We informed IDA that we would let the LHDs know that IDPH would consider for the purpose of food handler training, the congregate and home delivered meal sites as non-restaurants. We also let them know that these sites need to work with their LHD’s to see if they agree with determination. Any food handler that is a paid employee at one of these congregate or home delivered meal prep sites would need food handler training starting July 1, 2016, with enforcement limited to notification and education until December 31, 2016. Non-restaurants can create their own food handler training programs and submit to the Department for approval using the application found on the Department’s website at:

http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/fdd/fddintro.htm#FDD_FoodHandler_Training

If you have any further questions, please contact April Caulk, FSSMC Program Coordinator at 217-785-2439 or april.caulk@illinois.gov.

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