



## San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department

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## California Food Handler Card Law October, 2011

On January 1, 2011, the California Food Handler Card Law went into effect, requiring all food handlers to obtain basic food safety training. The law states that all food handlers must pass an exam and receive a food handler card by July 1, 2011. Due to delays in implementation, San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department will continue educating food facility operators (in lieu of enforcement) through January 1, 2012, in accordance with guidelines created by a stakeholder working group.

### **Food Handler Facts:**

- The food handler card exam is different from the food safety certification exam. The course is designed to be completed in 2 ½ hours and the assessment consists of at least 40 questions.
- The food handler card will be valid for three (3) years from the date of issuance. It is transferrable between employers and will be recognized throughout California.
- The law requires at least one food handler training course and assessment to be available for no more than \$15, including the food handler card. However, you may find courses that provide in person training and assistance that charge more to cover their costs.
- Any food employee at a subject facility who handles food or beverages in any way must obtain a food handler card unless he or she is already food safety certified.
- Currently approved food handler courses and exams:
  - 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)
  - <http://ca.statefoodsafety.com>
  - [www.abettercompanyfoodsafety.com](http://www.abettercompanyfoodsafety.com)
  - [www.tapseries.com/4u/cali](http://www.tapseries.com/4u/cali)
- Food facilities exempted from the requirement of obtaining a food handler card include certified farmers markets, commissaries, grocery stores, licensed health care facilities, mobile support units, restricted food service facilities, school cafeterias, convenience stores, facilities subject to a collective bargaining agreement with its food handlers, and food facilities that provide an approved in-house training from a different state and meet the requirements of the subpart 2-103.11 of the 2001 edition of the Model Food Code published by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

For more information and to view the California Food Handler Card Guideline Document click on the following link: [Food card information](#)