



100 Percent Food Handler Permit Compliance Required

The Lincoln Food Code states that *everyone* who works in a food establishment must have a food handler or manager permit. All violations of food handler/manager permit requirements are critical item violations. Not having food handler permits is the number one reason for food establishments receiving Notices of Violation (NOVs) and Food Enforcement Notices (FENs).

Receiving a poor inspection report is bad publicity for a business. The *Lincoln Journal/Star* publishes the names of all food establishments that receive FENs.

Untrained employees pose a risk to your customers and are a legal and financial liability to the owner and manager. Trained food handlers know how to reduce the risk of foodborne illness by washing their hands, keeping hot food hot and cold food cold, preventing cross contamination of ready to eat from raw products, etc.

To protect the public, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD), under the guidance of the Food Advisory Committee and the Board of Health, requires 100 percent compliance with the food handler permit ordinance. Establishments that *do not have 100% of employees holding the proper food handler permit will receive a Notice of Violation or Food Enforcement Notice.*

Each establishment *must* maintain and have readily accessible a current list of all employees, their dates of hire, food handler permit numbers, and permit expiration dates. This requirement is a tool for the manager to use to ensure all employees have current permits.

There is a simple solution to this problem: require employees to have food handler permits before you hire them or schedule them to work. Require employees to keep their permits current or do not schedule them for work until they can show their permit.

Between the live classes taught at the LLCHD location and the on-line classes available through the LLCHD web pages, getting a food handler permit has never been easier.

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