



# Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

*"Healthy People, Healthy Communities"*

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## California Food Handler Card

Dear Mendocino County Food Facility Operators,

California Senate Bill Number 303 (SB 303) was passed and signed into law. It became effective September 6, 2011. It clarifies the food handler card requirement for approved training. California Senate Bill 602 initiated the food handler card when it became law in 2010. The food handler card provides training for a restaurant and temporary food facility employees, (food preparation staff, dishwashers, bus people and wait staff). These facilities will need to notify employees to obtain their food handler card by January 1, 2012, and no later than January 31, 2012.

Training courses are available through private providers. Online training courses are to be at a cost of no more than \$15 to employees. Food Handlers should check with course providers for courses in languages other than English. Food handlers not already in possession of a food handler card when hired will have 30 days to obtain a food handler card.

Prior to January 1, 2012, a food handler may obtain a food handler card from either one of the following:

An American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited training provider that meets ASTM International E2659-09 Standard Practice for Certificate Programs, or a food protection manager certification organization.

Beginning January 1, 2012, a food handler shall obtain a food handler card only from an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited training provider that meets ASTM International E2659-09 Standard Practice for Certificate Programs.

Exempted from this law are: grocery stores (including convenience stores), licensed health care facilities, schools, restricted food service facilities, mobile support units, certified farmers markets, commissaries, and retail stores with a majority of sales from a pharmacy, as defined in Section 4037 of the Business and Professions Code, venues with snack bar service in which the majority of sales are from admission tickets, but excluding any area in which restaurant-style sit-down service is provided and a food facilities that provide approved in-house food safety training to all employees.

You can view this new law online at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html> and searching for SB 303 (Padilla), under session 2011-2012.

### Accredited Food Handler Course Organizations:

**AboveTraining/StateFoodSafety.com:** <http://www.statefoodsafety.com> Phone: (801) 494-1416

**National Environmental Health Association:** <http://www.neha.org> Phone: (866) 956-2258

**National Restaurant Association Solutions, LLC:** <http://www.servsafe.com/Starters/index.aspx> Phone: (866) 901-7778

**Premier Food Safety:** <http://www.premierfoodsafety.com/> Phone (800) 676-3121

**TAP Series:** <http://www.tapseries.com> Phone (818) 889-8798

### Food Manager Certification Organizations:

**National Registry of Food Safety Professionals:** <http://www.hrtsonline.net/> Phone: (800) 446-0257

**Prometric Inc.:** <http://www.prometric.com/foodsafety/default.htm>

**National Restaurant Association Solutions, LLC:** Phone: (866) 901-7778

Mendocino County Environmental Health Division, Consumer Protection Program  
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