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Health Inspection Program

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March 13, 2017

Dear Eating Establishment Owner,

This notice is to inform you that the Health Inspection Program has implemented an educational public health initiative on Employee Health on March 1, 2017. The purpose of this initiative is to reduce the likelihood that viruses and bacteria will be transmitted from infected food employees into food. CDC estimates that each year roughly 48 million people become sick from a foodborne illness, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die. According to the 2011 estimates, the [most common foodborne illnesses](#) are caused by [norovirus](#) and by the bacteria [Salmonella](#), [Clostridium perfringens](#), and [Campylobacter](#).

During your inspections, a State or Municipal Health Inspector will ask the Manager or Person In Charge (PIC) questions about employee health (Section 2-2 of the Maine Food Code) to assess knowledge and awareness. The inspector will provide you with a red folder with handouts titled "Employee Health Policy" which will assist you in developing your employee health policy. The handouts in this folder have simplified the Employee Health section of the Maine Food Code.

These handouts focus on:

- 1) Foodborne illness training
- 2) Reporting Agreement
- 3) Manager's decision guide

The goal of this outreach is to:

- 1) Educate and train employees on foodborne illness transmission, diseases and symptoms;
- 2) Increase employee awareness to report symptoms, diagnosis and exposure to their manager, and;
- 3) Educate the manager or PIC as to what action to take when an employee reports and under what conditions the employee can return to work or assigned duties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Silva".

Lisa M. Silva, Program Manager
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