

Become Informed

The United States Food and Drug Administration has published extensive guidance information for the food industry.

This guidance includes precautionary and emergency response measures for producers, processors, transporters and retailers.

This guidance and links to other important information regarding food safety and bioterrorism can be found at www.foodsafety.gov or call 1-888-SAFEFOOD.

Responding to an Incident

Be prepared to assist local officials in investigating the source of a foodborne illness.

- Post 24-hour contact information for local, state and federal police/fire/rescue/government agencies near the telephone.
- Identify management personnel that employees should alert about potential security problems.

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets contact information:

- Albany 518-457-5380
- Buffalo 716-847-3185
- New York City 718-722-2876
- Rochester 585-427-2273
- Syracuse 315-487-0852

Food tampering is a crime. Do not handle or disturb products known or suspected to have been tampered with. Clear people from the area and notify law enforcement authorities, then your nearest State Department of Agriculture and Markets office.

You are also advised to report any occurrence or allegation of food-borne illness to your nearest New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets office and state or local health department office within 24 hours.

State of New York
George E. Pataki, Governor



New York State Department of
Agriculture and Markets
Nathan L. Rudgers, Commissioner
1-800-554-4501
info@agmkt.state.ny.us

RETAIL FOOD
STORE SECURITY:

Preventive Measures for Food Store Operators

What you can do to protect

- your customers
- your employees
- your business and yourself



Because Food Security is
Everybody's Business!



Take Steps to Minimize the Risk of Food Tampering

There is a possibility that food might be used as a vehicle for the spread of biological or chemical agents as part of a terrorist attack.

As a food establishment operator, there are some steps you can take to reduce the risk that foods you serve contribute to the spread of foodborne hazards.

At the Salad Bar & Self-Service Areas

Customer self-service areas should be considered areas of high risk

- Monitor self-service areas at all times.
- Minimize quantity of food on display. Discard remaining product that has been out for self-service.
- Whenever possible, avoid mixing new product with foods already on display.
- Train all employees to be alert for suspicious activity and to report it to supervisors immediately.



At the Back Door

Know your suppliers and your products

- Purchase products only from reputable, established sources
- Maintain purchase records with product identification codes whenever possible.
- Inspect deliveries carefully for signs of tampering or unusual physical characteristics. Knowing what is normal will improve detection of suspicious items.
- Contact suppliers if you have concerns about the appearance of a product or package. There may be an explanation.
- Bring all deliveries inside establishment or otherwise secure them to prevent tampering.
- Restrict access to unloading and storage areas. Operations with many employees should consider ID badges coded to identify work areas.



In the Food Prep Areas

Know your employees

- Require complete applications and check references. Conduct background checks as allowed by law.
- Restrict access to food preparation areas to authorized personnel. Investigate and/or report suspicious activity.
- Have an employee sick leave policy that encourages employees to report illness and to not report to work when they are ill with gastrointestinal symptoms or other communicable illnesses.
- Restrict personal items allowed in food preparation and storage areas. Prevent workers from bringing lunch containers and purses into food handling areas.

Before preparation

- Inspect stored food products for signs of tampering prior to preparation or service.
- Make sure any water source meets all NYS drinking water standards and is adequately protected.
- Thoroughly rinse all produce with drinking-quality water prior to preparation or service.

