

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

March 21, 2016

Food Safety Seminar on Thursday, April 14th at Portsmouth City Hall

PORTSMOUTH, NH – The Health Department, in collaboration with UNH Cooperative Extension, will be offering a free Food Safety Seminar on Thursday, April 14th, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the City Council Chambers.

The course has been well attended in the past. Since 2012, 312 food service workers have attended, including several from communities outside of Portsmouth. Restaurants, grocery stores, mobile food vendors, non-profits, schools, nursing homes, churches, breweries, hotels and specialty food businesses have been represented. Participation is not restricted to Portsmouth businesses. Participants from 17 New Hampshire, 9 Maine, and 2 Massachusetts municipalities have increased their awareness of food safety. Although the majority of these attendees work in Portsmouth restaurants, the workforce is very mobile, providing a benefit that extends to these broader areas as food service professionals change employers.

Since 2013, participants who successfully pass a post-training exam receive a Safety Awareness in the Food Environment (SAFE) Food Handler's card. Although this is not a requirement in New Hampshire, it is required in other states and has been requested by local food service workers. Workers with special considerations for taking the exam can arrange assistance to be able to complete the exam. Since 2013, 218 workers have elected to take the exam, 212 passed on initial exam and two additional participants were able to pass the exam with language assistance.

In addition to these classes, the City's collaboration with UNH allows individual restaurants to host food safety education for their staff at their restaurants. This program operates at no cost to the City. To register, contact Terry Poulin at 610-7232 or terry@cityofportsmouth.com.