



TOWN OF TRURO

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 2030, Truro MA 02666

Tel: 508-349-7004 Fax: 508-349-5508

September 2010

To: All Food Service Establishments

RE: Allergen Awareness Regulation

Dear Food Service Manager/Owner:

As you may be aware, in January 2009 Governor Patrick signed into law the Food Allergy Awareness in Restaurants Act. The purpose of the Act is to minimize illness and death due to accidental ingestion of food allergens by increasing restaurant industry and consumer awareness in regards to food allergens.

On June 9, 2010 the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Public Health Council voted to amend the State Sanitary Code, Chapter X: Minimum Standards for Food Service Establishments, 105 CMR 590.000 in order to implement the Allergen Awareness Act.

Effective October 1, 2010 the amendments to the regulation will require:

- A 8 ½" x 11" poster shall be displayed in the employee work area. relating to major food allergens. The poster shall include major food allergens, health risks of food allergens, procedure to follow when a customer states that he or she has a food allergy and emergency procedure to follow if a customer has an allergic reaction to a food.
- Notice printed on menus and menu board that states " Before placing your order, please inform your server if a person in your party has a food allergy." OR
- Notice at point of service. This means adjacent to the menu board, cash register or at each point where food is served. The posting must be easily read and seen from a distance of five feet by a person standing or approaching the point of service.

Effective February 1, 2011 the amendment to the regulation will require:

- Food Service Establishments shall have on staff a certified food protection manager who has been issued a Massachusetts certificate of allergen awareness training.

Recognizing that many of you are closing or have closed for the season, please keep in mind that the requirements of the regulation must be met prior to opening for the 2011 season.

It is our hope to work with owners and managers to establish compliance with the new requirements of the regulation in order to ensure food safety in the Town of Truro.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendments to the regulation, Q&As for MDPH Allergen Awareness Regulation, and food allergen poster. You can also visit the town's website at www.truro-ma.gov to download these documents.

If you wish to discuss the requirements of the regulation, you may request a hearing before the Board of Health.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 508-349-7004 x32.

Sincerely,

Patricia Pajaron, RS
Health Agent

cc: Board of Health