

## Food Handler Training Requirements in Illinois

Public Act 098-0566 requires that all food handlers working in Illinois restaurants must have Food Handler training. New employees have 30 days to complete the training.

Who is considered a food handler? A “food handler” is a Food Employee as defined in Section 750.110 of the Illinois Food Service Sanitation Code as an “individual working with unpackaged food, food equipment or utensils, or food-contact surfaces.” This includes servers, bartenders, busboys, and dishwashers.

Who is required to have Food Handler Training? Any paid food handler working in the state of Illinois, unless that person has a valid Illinois Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC). Unpaid volunteers are not required to have food handler training. If you work in a restaurant in a non-food handler position, but fill in as a food handler occasionally, you must have food handler training.

What is considered a restaurant? “Restaurant” means any business that is primarily engaged in the sale of ready-to-eat food for immediate consumption, where “primarily engaged” means having sales of ready-to-eat food for immediate consumption comprising at least 51% of the total sales, excluding the sale of liquor. For the purposes of this definition, restaurants would include concessions and other food service establishments where food is intended for immediate or on-site consumption.

Do temporary or mobile food stands (corn dogs, lemonade shake-ups, etc.) require food handling certificates? Temporary food stands are exempt from food handler training requirements. Food handlers who work in mobile food stands must have food handler training.

What type of food handler training is offered? Food handler courses may be taken online, in a classroom, or in-house with a live or remote trainer. Any company’s internal food handler training program that was approved in another state prior to August 27, 2013, is acceptable. Online training is available in many languages, including English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, and American Sign Language. The following are a few of the websites offering approved online courses: [statefoodsafety.com](http://statefoodsafety.com), [premierfoodsafety.com](http://premierfoodsafety.com), [usfoodhandler.com](http://usfoodhandler.com), [ilfoodhandlers.com](http://ilfoodhandlers.com), [servsafe.com](http://servsafe.com), [safefoodtest.com](http://safefoodtest.com), [sanitationcertificate.com](http://sanitationcertificate.com), [sanitationcertificate.com](http://sanitationcertificate.com), [safewayclasses.com](http://safewayclasses.com), [learn2serve.com](http://learn2serve.com), [123premierfoodsafety.com](http://123premierfoodsafety.com), and [acefoodhandler.com](http://acefoodhandler.com). For the full list of approved courses, go to [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org) and search for “Food Handler Training Illinois.” The Fulton County Health Department offers “in person” food handler training classes. Class dates are listed on the back of this page.

Can a “train the trainer” approach be used, where one person attends a training course and then goes back and teaches others within their facility? No, because each food handler needs to receive the training from, and be assessed by, an approved training program provider.

What is the cost of food handler training? The training generally costs \$15 or less, per person. There are several approved programs available in that price range. Employers are not obligated to pay for the training, since the certificate is the property of the trainee and can be transferred with the employee to a new job.

How long is the training valid? Food handler training certificates are valid for 3 years for restaurant employees.

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### **Food Handlers in Non-restaurants – As of July 1, 2016, non-restaurant food handlers must have food handler training.**

Non-restaurants are facilities such as: retail food stores, nursing homes, licensed day care homes and facilities, hospitals, schools, and long-term care facilities. Food handlers in non-restaurants are not required to take an ANSI-approved food handler course. Any food handler training course that has been approved by the IL Department of Public Health is acceptable for food handlers in non-restaurants. Those working in non-restaurants are not required to take another food handler training course after 3 years, unless they work in nursing homes, licensed day care facilities, hospitals, schools, or long-term care facilities, or if they go to work for another employer. Food handler training for those working in non-restaurants is **not** transferable between employers.

# Fulton County Health Department Food Handler Training Classes



**Cost:** \$10 per person, due the day of class  
Cash, checks, or debit/credit card payments accepted  
Make checks payable to "FCHD"

**Location:** Fulton County Health Department  
Room 307  
700 East Oak Street, Canton, IL

Due to reduced interest in our food handler classes in 2020, we have not scheduled monthly Food Handler classes for 2021. However, upon request, we will provide in person Food Handler training at the health department for groups of 5 or more students. If you have at least five food handlers who need Food Handler training, and would like to have them trained by health department staff, please call our office to schedule a class.

**To Schedule:** Call 309-647-1134, Ext. 230, **at least 7 days prior** to the date you'd like to have your class.

You will be asked to provide the spelling of the name of each person you sign up, to ensure that the students' certificates are printed correctly.

Students should arrive 15 minutes before class starts to allow time for payment. Bring a pen or pencil to write with. Other class materials will be provided.

