

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 sites offer approved online courses: statefoodsafety.com, premierfoodsafety.com, usfoodhandler.com, ILfoodhandlers.com, servsafe.com, safefoodtest.com, sanitationcertificate.com, sanitationcertificate.com, safewayclasses.com, and tapseries.com/4u/brifh. 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.

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 go to work for another employer. Food handler training for those working in non-restaurants is not transferable between employers.

Fulton County Health Department 2017 Food Handler Training Classes



Cost: \$10 per person, due the day of class
Cash or check only (no credit or debit cards)
Make checks payable to "FCHD"

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

Schedule:

The Food Handler Class is offered on the following Monday mornings in 2017*

Class Time: 9:30 am - 11:30 am

- January 23
- February 27
- March 27
- April 24
- May 22
- June 26
- July 17
- August 28
- September 25
- October 30
- November 20
- December 18

Sign up: Call 309-647-1134, Ext. 230, at least 7 days in advance to sign up for a 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.

**Note: If fewer than 5 people sign up for a class, it may be cancelled. Students who are signed up for a class that has been cancelled will be notified by phone.*

