



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Health Department Announces Schedule for Food Safety Certification Courses *Certification Required for Workers Preparing Foods*

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department today announced its upcoming schedule of food protection certification courses for food industry workers.

The two-day course will be offered March 14 and 21 at Allegheny General Hospital on the North Side; April 7 and 14 at UPMC McKeesport Hospital; April 28 and May 5 at Montour Heights Country Club in Coraopolis; and June 16 and 23 at Charles Morris Nursing Home in Squirrel Hill.

The course teaches the importance of food safety along with techniques designed to prevent food contamination and outbreaks of food poisoning. The Health Department requires facilities that prepare foods to have at least one certified worker on site during operating hours.

The fee is \$60 for anyone who lives in Allegheny County or works in a food facility in the County and \$75 for others. A three-year nationally recognized certification is awarded to those who complete the course and pass the exam.

A one-day refresher class for workers whose certification has expired will be offered on March 31 at West Penn Hospital in Friendship and May 27 at the Alpine Club in Bridgeville. The fee for the recertification course, including the exam, is \$55 for people living in the County or working in a food facility here and \$70 for others.

A certification challenge exam, with no instruction, will be given from 2 to 3 p.m. on March 12 and 19; April 2, 6, and 30; May 21; and June 4 and 18 at the Health Department's Food Safety Division in Lawrenceville. The one-hour exam, which is for those who already have had food safety training, is \$40 for those who live in the County or work in a food facility here and \$55 for others.

Discounted culinary student fees of \$40 for County residents and \$55 for non-residents are available for the certification course and refresher class.

For more information, please call the Allegheny County Health Department at **412-687-ACHD (2243)** or visit its web site at www.achd.net.

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