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SOLANO COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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Environmental Health Division

Dear Food Purveyor,

August 27, 2024

The Solano County Department of Resource Management, Environmental Health Division will be conducting its annual foodborne illness prevention campaign during the month of September, which is National Food Safety Education Month. This year will continue efforts from last year with a focus on practices to separate and protect ready-to-eat food from raw food to prevent cross contamination. Throughout the month, Environmental Health staff will be conducting focused inspections at hundreds of food facilities to assess compliance with sanitizing, food storage, cross contamination prevention and will provide operators with onsite training and educational materials as needed to improve these practices. Food establishments that demonstrate exemplary technique will be issued a certificate of recognition that can be posted for customer viewing.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that each year roughly 1 out of 6 Americans become ill, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die from foodborne diseases. Proper techniques to separate and protect ready-to-eat food from raw food to prevent cross contamination can help reduce these numbers. If all food is properly separated, protected, and handled, bacteria would not be transferred to consumers who could later become ill. In general, cleaning and sanitizing food surfaces prevents the spread of pathogens from raw to ready-to-eat foods; this, in addition to safe employee practices, can prevent many foodborne illnesses. For example, always maintain raw meats away from ready-to-eat foods, sanitize all food contact surfaces and ensure staff wash their hands.

Nationally, reducing foodborne illness by just 1% would keep 500,000 Americans from getting sick each year and reducing foodborne illness by 10% would keep 5 million Americans from getting sick. Please join Solano County in this initiative to improve public health and save lives by preventing foodborne illness, especially illness caused by cross contamination.

For further information, contact Solano County Department of Resource Management, Consumer Protection Program at (707) 784-6765 or by email at: consumer@solanocounty.com.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. McGill".

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