

regional partnership program is to increase safe food handling practices at retail food facilities by improving local implementation of the retail food inspection program. In conjunction with National Food Safety Education Month, many of the members of this FDA regional partnership program conduct educational campaigns in September to emphasize the importance of food safety in the prevention of foodborne illness.

During September 2018, staff will be performing inspections focusing on hot and cold holding temperatures and proper cooling techniques at over 300 food establishments, especially those with a higher potential for foodborne illness due to the complexity of their food preparation activities. The department decided to use temperatures as our focus during the National Food Safety Education Month as it is our most noted violation within our food establishments in Solano County. During these focused inspections, staff will interview food establishment kitchen staff and observe their practices to determine their understanding of temperatures and cooling practices as they relate to foodborne illness; this will also allow staff to monitor for best management practices in an inspection tailored to these topics. Continuing our history of educating the regulated community and our partners, staff will also distribute posters and handouts about the temperature danger zone and proper cooling techniques for display in preparation areas to all food facilities inspected.

Last year during September 2017, the department participated in our initial campaign focused on food temperatures and cooling techniques which resulted in 222 inspections at food establishments. During these inspections, staff distributed educational handouts, which included temperature danger zone posters, storyboards on foodborne illness prevention and cooling handouts to these establishments. This initial campaign resulted in increased awareness of proper cooling techniques, and our goal this year is to see the knowledge from previous year's event result in fewer cooling and temperature violations during routine inspections.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board of Supervisors could choose not to issue a resolution declaring September 2018 as Food Safety Education Month. This is not recommended as such a resolution will support local and regional efforts to promote public health through food safety education and food safety operational awareness.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The Department of Resource Management is also coordinating outreach activities with the Solano County Health and Social Services Department, Public Health Services Division and the County Administrators Office to provide information to media and the public on proper hot and cold holding temperatures and cooling; and its role in preventing illness. Solano County Health and Social Services Department, Public Health Service Division will be posting flyers on the temperature danger zone and proper cooling practices on their web site, at Family Health Services Clinics in Fairfield and Vallejo, and at WIC program offices in Fairfield, Vacaville, and Vallejo. Public Health Nurses will also provide temperature danger zone flyers to families when they conduct home visits to new moms, newborns, and families. Solano Public Health estimates that hundreds of Solano County residents will receive the important message about proper temperatures for food storage and cooling through these outreach efforts in September.

County Counsel was consulted during preparation of the Resolution.

CAO RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION