

Columbus Public Health Food Protection Program

Enforcement Procedures

Enforcement Actions

When a Food Service Operation or Retail Food Establishment is found to be noncompliant for critical violations during a routine inspection, a **Follow-up Inspection** will occur. If there are repeat critical violations during the Follow up inspection or there are violations that are an immediate danger to public health then a **Pre-Hearing Conference** may occur. A **Pre-Hearing Conference** is a meeting between an establishment owner, or a designate representative of the establishment, and Columbus Public Health. The purpose of the meeting is to explain the severity of observed violations, the need for correction, education about the violations, and the consequences of allowing it to continue. At this point Food Safety Training is required for all persons in charge of the facility. If there are repeat critical violations after the Pre-hearing conference a **Formal Hearing** may occur. During the Formal Hearing a hearing officer conducts the hearing and reviews the case and makes recommendations to the Board of Health for the next Board of Health Meeting.

In cases where a food service operation or a retail food establishment has violations that are an imminent health danger and cannot be remedied at time of inspection an **Order to Cease and Desist** may be issued.

Enforcement Penalties

Along with the above enforcement actions, a business may have their food license limited or suspended for a period of time if the violations are found to be hazardous to the health of the public. Below are the actions the Board of Health may take after the **Formal Hearing**:

Limit: limitations may be placed on the menu or certain food handling processes may be not allowed in the facility.

Period of Increased Frequency Monitoring: The business is placed under "special alert" by the Board of Health and is inspected frequently and monitored often during a period of time determined by the Board of Health.

Suspension: The business' license is removed until violations are eliminated. Typically education for the business' employees is conducted during this time and physical repairs are made to the facility as needed.

Revocation: The business is closed by Columbus Public Health due to repeated critical violations.

Who Is The Program For? The Food Safety Program provides its services to all people who live or work in the City of Columbus and Worthington.

If you are interested in using any of the Food Protection Program services please link to the sites available on our web site (www.publichealth.columbus.gov) or contact the Food Protection Program at 645-7005.



www.publichealth.columbus.gov