**FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SERVICES**

**FOOD FROM HOME**

Infections can enter a health care community from a myriad of sources.

Education is one of many strategies that may be used to mitigate outbreaks of various infections in a healthcare community. Staff and family education is critical to minimize potential risks. Although food is most often thought of as a pleasure and nourishment for the body, it can easily become a source of infections in facilities if attention is not given to food safety.  Staff education is not complete without ensuring demonstrated competencies that incorporate infection control.

Education should go beyond facility staff to the families and visitors who bring food inside our facilities.  As facilities strive to create more home like environments and allow "outside foods" and “family favorites” to be brought in for the patient’s desire, it is important to ensure measures are in place to educate families on the safety of food handling from the time it is prepared, transported and delivered to your facility.

The 2021 CAHF GR Quality Improvement Sub-Committee has developed a toolkit of resources that will aide facilities in creating their own safe Food from Home Program that meets regulatory compliance.

* Food Brought by Family or Visitor Policy that is adaptable to any facility.
* Food & Nutrition: Competency Checklist for the Food Service Worker *(updated version that appears on the Dietary Grant page)*
* Reference tool of Federal Regulatory Tags that could impact a facility’s compliance related to food and nutrition, as well as infection control.
* Family Educational materials
* Staff Educational webinars

**California Department of Public Health** created a series of webinars that address Food and Nutritional Services. The following links are to webinars delivered by CDPH nutritional consultants who provide guidance on how to maintain good infection control in the kitchen as well as how to prepare for the next recertification survey.

Food Service Concerns During COVID-19

Recording link: <https://cdph-conf.webex.com/cdph-conf/lsr.php?RCID=219a2d2441ce4d319b0c19d6f034e59d>

Password: Webinar4

Food and Nutrition Services Webinar: Survey Readiness Part 1

Recording link: <https://cdph-conf.webex.com/cdph-conf/lsr.php?RCID=bbcaf94dc06a4b0c82dcb6bf28513187>

Password: Webinar9

Food and Nutrition Services Webinar: Survey Readiness Part 2

Recording link: <https://cdph-conf.webex.com/cdph-conf/lsr.php?RCID=35cfc08a12466faa599cf9f12fd7d2ec>

Password: Webinar10

**Family Educational Resources**

CDC: Food Safety and Eating Out

English Language: [Food Safety and Eating Out | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/communication/eatingout.html)

Spanish Language: [La seguridad de los alimentos cuando sale a cenar | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/es/communication/eatingout.html)

CDC: Four Steps to Food Safety

English Language: [Four Steps to Food Safety | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/keep-food-safe.html)

Spanish Language: [Mantenga los alimentos seguros | Seguridad alimenticia | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/es/keep-food-safe-es.html)