# Basic Food Safety and Sanitation

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# Why is Food Safety Important?

It is important for food program workers to know basic food safety to ensure clients safely receive the food they need.



#### **How Does Food Become Unsafe?**

- Unsafe food is usually the result of contamination, which is the presence of harmful substances in food.
- 3 Categories of contaminants:
  - ▶ 1. Biological- viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites
  - ▶ 2. Chemical- food service chemicals that are used incorrectly
  - ▶ 3. Physical- band aids, glass, dirt, fish bones











#### Foodborne Illness

- Symptoms can begin in as little as 30 minutes and up to 7 days after ingesting contaminated food.
- ▶ 1 in 6 Americans experience food poisoning every year.
- Children, seniors, pregnant women and those with chronic illness are most at risk.

#### **SYMPTOMS**















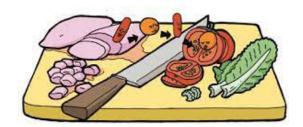




# How Can Emergency Food Programs Keep Food Safe?

- Practice good personal hygiene
- Control time and temperature of food
- Prevent cross contamination
- Proper cleaning and sanitizing.









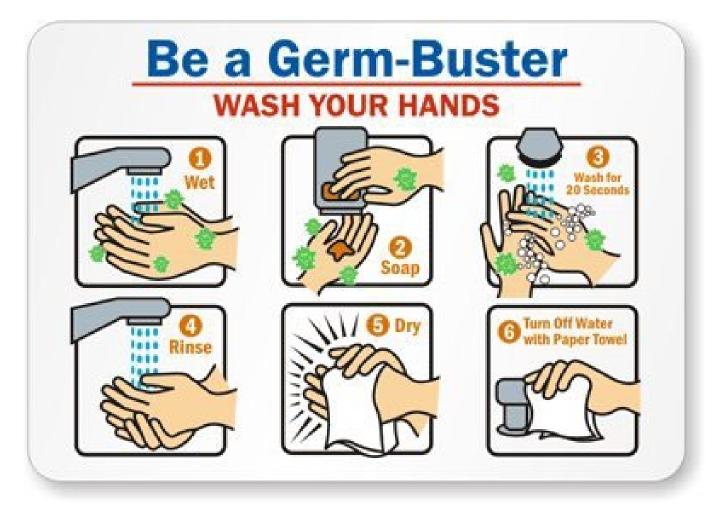
# Handwashing



- Proper handwashing is critical in preventing the spread of pathogens
- The whole process should take at least 20 seconds.
- Should only be done in sinks designated for hand washing.
- Handwashing sinks should not be used for washing dishes or prepping food.
- One study found that consumers are not washing their hands correctly 97% of the time.



### Proper Handwashing

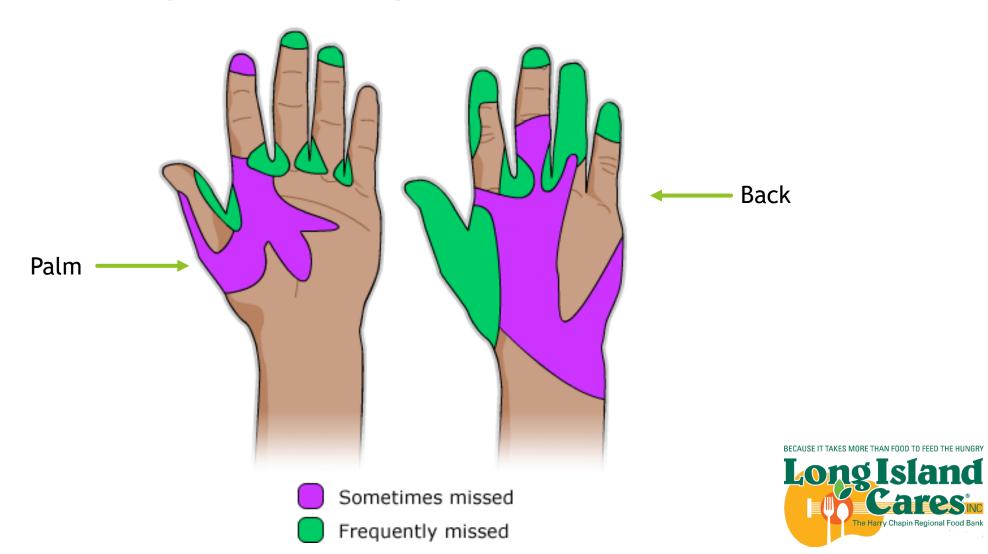




Hand sanitizer should NOT be used in place of handwashing



# **Handwashing Trouble Spots**



#### When to Wash Hands



#### Wash hands before you start work and after any of the following:

- Using the restroom
- Coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose
- ► Eating, drinking, smoking or chewing gum or tobacco
- Taking out the garbage
- ► Touching your hair, face or body
- Before putting on gloves
- After touching dirty equipment, work surfaces or towels

Note: LIC provides free soap dispensers and soap to our HPNAP agencies







#### Other Important Practices

NEVER eat, drink, smoke, chew tobacco in food handling and storage areas



Do NOT work or volunteer if you are sick



Cover all cuts and wounds with a bandage



# Receiving & Evaluating Food





# Safe Food Transport

- Have a clean vehicle, free of pests
- Keep chemicals away from food: oil, antifreeze, etc.
- Lock vehicle
- Don't store raw food over ready-to-eat food
  - Keep raw meat, seafood, poultry, and eggs away from foods that won't be cooked
- ► Keep food cold with coolers or thermal blankets. Check temperature upon arrival: Limit drive time





# Receiving Food



Check food upon arrival for abnormal odors or pests



Use a thermometer to check the temperature of all refrigerated and frozen food. **Refrigerated** food should be no more than 40°F, **Frozen** food should be frozen solid.



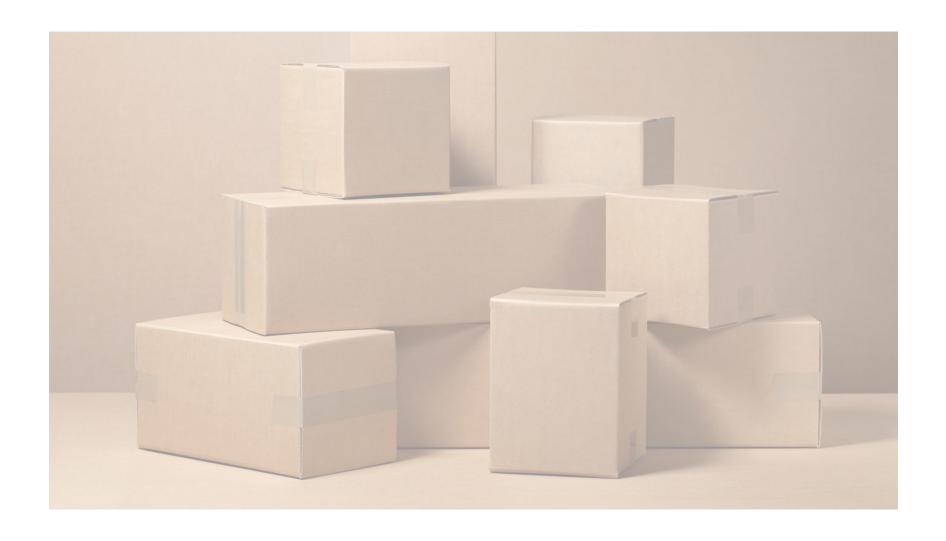
Perishable food should **never** be left at room temperature for more than **2 hours** (no more than 1 hour when it is 90°F or above).

# Reject Food If:

- >It is not at the right temperature
- > Inner package is damaged
- >It has signs of pests
- >It does not have a label and/or ingredients listed.
- >Is home canned or home repacked



# **Evaluating Food and Packages**





# Keep or Discard?









#### **Check Cans for Defects**

- Canned food that is damaged or defective can cause foodborne illness. Cans should be discarded if:
  - missing label and/or list of ingredients
  - severe dent in the seam
  - dents with "pointy edges"
  - crushed or dents on the top and/or bottom
  - holes and/or is leaking
  - crushed cans that are not stackable
  - swollen or bulging ends









#### **Evaluating Boxed Packages**

- Boxes without inner packages:
  - ▶ Look for moisture damage
  - ► Look for signs of pests
  - ▶ If opened, do not use
  - Discard packages with tears, punctures...
  - If box has inner package (cereal), check to see if inner package is opened
  - ► Frozen foods: check for ice crystals







#### Evaluating Meat & Poultry

- Color changes and freezer burn
  - ► Color changes are normal for fresh or frozen meat
  - ▶ Freezer burn areas are dried out and tasteless but not unsafe
- Signs of spoilage
  - ► Fading or darkening of meat in addition to a bad odor, sticky, or slimy.
- All meat, poultry, and eggs must be processed/packaged in a USDA approved (beef, pork, chicken) or NYS Dept. of Ag. & Markets approved (venison) facility.
- "Puffy" packaging
  - Some meats are packaged in <u>Modified Atmosphere Packaging</u> which is when a combination of gases are introduced to the package during processing to help maintain the color of the meat.





#### **Evaluating Produce**

- Discard produce if it has any of the following:
  - ► Mold
  - Decay or rot
  - Bad odors
  - Signs of insects
  - Skin not intact
  - Severe bruises (bruises provide a way for pathogens to get inside produce)

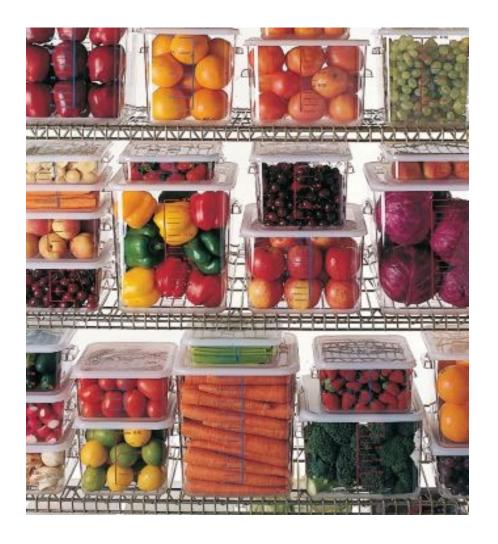








# Storing and Repacking Food





### Feeling the Heat?

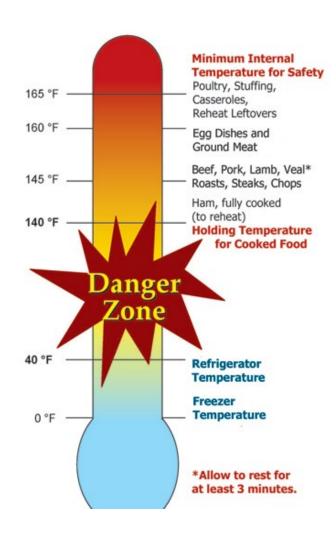
- A pantry is offering one-pound packages of frozen sausage today. Maria, the volunteer in charge of the frozen food sets 20 packages out on the distribution table at 9am. At 1:30pm, the pantry closes, and she puts the remaining 2 packages back in the freezer.
  - ▶ Will the 2 packages be safe to eat?
  - ▶ Why or why not?

Four Hour Rule: if a PHF is held in temp. danger zone for more than 4 hours- throw it away.



### Temperature Danger Zone

- Temperature Danger Zone is between 40°F and140°F.
- Potentially Hazardous Foods need to be kept out of this zone
  - Milk and dairy products
  - Eggs
  - Meat, Poultry, Fish
  - Prepared food- potato salad, sandwiches, cold cuts
- ▶ These foods are more likely to become unsafe in the danger zone
- " Keep cold foods cold, and hot foods hot."





#### Refrigerated Food Storage

- ► Set refrigerator to proper temperature: between 33°F and 40°F.
- Keep an extra thermometer inside coolers and freezers.
- Record the temperature of the refrigerator and freezer first thing each day the pantry or food program is open.
- You can find food temperature logs at <a href="https://www.licares.org">www.licares.org</a>. Go to Agency Support and click on Nutrition and Food Safety Resources.





# Refrigerated Food Storage

- ► Use "First In, First Out" rotation
  - First items placed in inventory are the first distributed
- Air circulation is needed to maintain equipment.
- ► When equipment is stuffed too full, maintaining proper temperatures is difficult.





#### Freezing

- Freezer temperature should be 0°F.
- You can freeze any food except food in cans or eggs in shell.
- ► Freezing prevents the growth of bacteria or microorganisms
  - Freezing food will not kill bacteria if it is already present



- Freezer up-keep: if frost is building up, be sure to defrost.
  - Buildup may lead to freezer burn, loss of storage space, bad odors and may prevent proper sealing of freezer door.



#### What to Do When the Power Goes Out

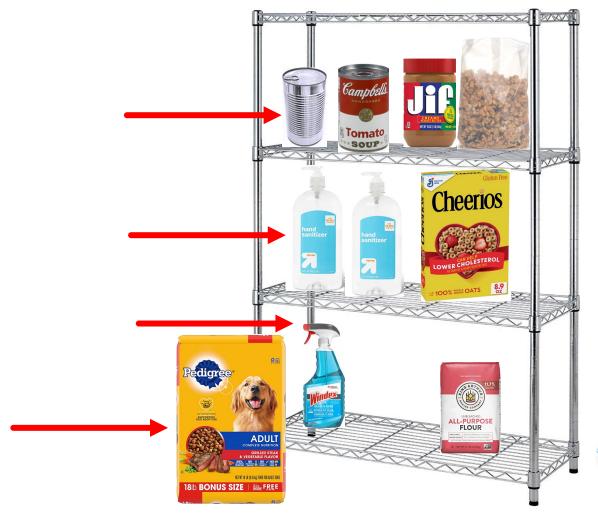
- Keep refrigerator and freezer door shut
- Refrigerated food: good for 4 hours
- ► Freezer food: Half full- good for 1 day, Full- good for 2 days







# What's Wrong With This Picture?







# Dry Food Storage

- Food must be stored 6 inches off the floor on metal shelving
  - Wood shelves are porous and absorb spills, which can lead to bacteria growth
  - Maintain dry storage between 50°F and 70°F. (Keep log of temperatures)



- Use First In, First Out rotation
- Store food with food, and non-food with non-food (including pet food)



### Repacking Food

- Repacking= separating a large package of food into smaller packages to distribute
- Food pantries are not licensed to repack food.
  - Exceptions: unprocessed, raw produce (Apples, Onions, Potatoes) and donated Artesian bread.







#### How to Repack Safely

- 1. Clean and sanitize the work surface
- 2. Wash hands and wear disposable gloves
- 3. Use only food grade plastic bags (unused grocery store bags are fine)
- 4. Label and date plastic bag

5. Explain to guests to wash produce prior to eating



# Sell By, Best By & Expiration Dates





#### True or False

Food past the date on the label is NOT safe for consumption.

**FALSE** 

Dates are printed voluntarily on packages by manufacturers and are not regulated by the Federal Government

**TRUE** 

 Baby food & formula is the only food required to have an expiration date.





#### **Product Date Definitions**

"Sell By": The last day a product can be offered for sale. You should buy the product before this date to ensure best quality.

"Use-by": The last date recommended for the use of product while at peak quality.

"Best if used by"- The date recommended for best flavor or quality of product.



#### Shelf Life After Product Date







1 week



1 year

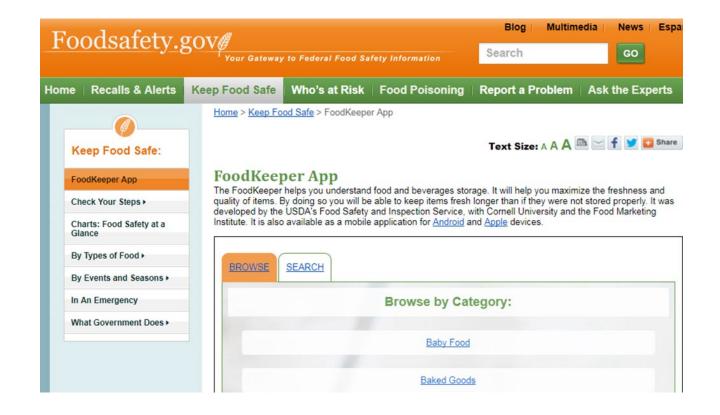


5 weeks



### Foodkeeper App

#### www.foodsafety.gov





#### Food Recalls

- Issued by the manufacturers with help from USDA and FDA
- Long Island Cares Regional Food Bank reviews recalls issued by FDA, USDA, and Feeding America.
- If we know a recalled product was sent to our agencies, we will notify the agencies of the recall by e-mail and/or phone.
- Sign up for food recall emails by going to www.recalls.gov





#### Food Allergens

- ► The 9 most common food allergens must be identified on food labels.
- Sesame was recently added to the list and can be referred to by many names including:
  - Benne Seed
  - Gingelly oil
  - Halvah
  - Sesamol
  - Tahini





### Nutrition Facts & Food Allergens

- The nutrition facts label contains important information regarding food allergens.
- ► The label must be present on all foods so that the consumer can make an informed decision about the food they eat.

#### Sample Label for Macaroni and Cheese

#### Start Here

#### Limit these Nutrients

#### Get Enough of these Nutrients

#### Footnote

Sat Fat Cholesterol

Total Carbohydrate Dietary Fiber

#### Nutrition Facts Serving Size 1 cup (228g)

Serving Size 1 cup (228g) Servings Per Container 2			
Amount Per Serving			
Calories 250 Calories from Fat 11			Fat 110
% Daily Value			y Value*
Total Fat 12g			18%
Saturated Fat 3g			15%
Trans Fat 1.5g			
Cholesterol 30mg			10%
Sodium 470mg			20%
Total Carbohydrate 31g			10%
Dietary Fiber 0g			0%
Sugars 5g			
Protein 5g			
Vilencia			40/
Vitamin A			4%
Vitamin C			2%
Calcium			20%
Iron			4%
*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your Daily Values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:			
	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g

300mg

#### Quick Guide to % DV

5% or less is low 20% or more is high

BECAUSE IT TAKES MORE THAN FOOD TO FEED THE HUNGR



#### **Pest Control**

- Pests carry pathogens which can make people sick.
- Signs you have pests:
  - Chewed boxes or holes in food packages
  - Droppings
  - ► Live or dead insects in food storage areas
  - Nests







#### **Preventing Pests**

- Don't let them in!
  - ► Keep outside doors & windows screened or closed
  - Seal cracks and gaps around doors, windows, and pipes



- Don't feed them!
  - Clean up food spills right away
  - Store grains in plastic or steel container
- TRASH can attract pests
  - Remove trash from food prep areas as quickly as possible
  - ► Clean the inside and outside of trash containers ( away from food prep areas)





#### **Pest Control**

- What to do if you discover signs of pests:
  - ▶ Clean the area. Remove food that may be attracting pests
  - Throw out any food that has signs of pests
  - Find out how the pests got in and make changes to prevent access

- Work with a licensed pest control operator
  - ▶ No spray chemicals or open bait stations around food





# Thank You!

Thank you for reviewing the food safety training for food pantries. To receive your certificate, you must successfully complete the corresponding quiz using the link below:

https://www.cognitoforms.com/LongIslandCaresFoodB ank/basicfoodsafetysanitationtrainingforfoodpantriesqu iz



www.licares.org | 631.582.F00D (3663)