

# FOOD SAFETY NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

October - December 2023



## IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

At the start of the school year, Sandusky County Public Health's Environmental Health Specialists inspect the school kitchens, buildings, and classrooms. These inspections are essential to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and faculty. It's vital to this department to maintain the highest environmental health standards. Rest assured, the inspectors are working hard to meet this goal. So when you see them at your child's school, please know that they are inspecting to ensure everyone stays safe and healthy.



## COMMON VIOLATIONS:

One of the most frequently observed violations by our inspectors pertains to improper cooling parameters. According to the Ohio Food Safety Codes, the cooling of cooked food must adhere to strict guidelines. Specifically, cooked food should be cooled from 135 degrees F to 70 degrees F within two hours. Following this, it must be cooled from 70 degrees F to 41 degrees F or below within four hours. Failure to comply with these regulations can lead to potential health hazards. Several methods can be used to achieve safe food storage parameters. These include dividing large quantities of food into smaller, shallow pans, placing foods into an ice bath or using an ice wand, placing foods directly into a refrigerator that is 41 degrees F or colder, and leaving containers open and covering them once they have cooled to the proper temperatures. This helps prevent bacteria from developing and condensation from accumulating.

## BE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE

The team at the Environmental Health Division of Sandusky County Public Health is diligently committed to providing you with regular updates on our organizational structure and operations. We strongly encourage you to visit our website, where we will be updating and upgrading our content to keep you well-informed about our practices and upcoming events. We remain devoted to maintaining high standards of transparency and accountability, and we look forward to serving you better through our website.



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