

Compiled By The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

## Food Handling Course

Soon the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit will be offering two ways for people to become certified food handlers. In the past, all people who came to the Health Unit to get certified had to attend an in-class lecture taught by a public health inspector, and then come back to write an exam. The Health Unit is pleased to announce the addition of a new online course available for those who wish to take the course from home.

Once a person registers for the online course, they are given a login pass that will let them save their progress before signing out, and allow them to resume the course once they log back in. This login will be good for 30 days, and individuals can use their login 24 hours a day from any computer with an internet connection. The course takes approximately six or seven hours to complete. Once the student finishes the course, they must call the Health Unit to book an appointment to write their certification exam. A link providing contact information for booking an exam time will be provided online both when individuals login and throughout the course as they complete each lesson. Individuals must then come to the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit with valid identification to write their certification exam. All online students will receive a PDF copy of the food handler

course binder that they can print off and keep.

Handling food safely is one of the best ways to reduce the risk of food borne illness. The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit encourages all people who handle food to become certified. Food handlers are individuals who process and/or prepare food that is ready for consumption. Examples of people who should be certified include chefs, deli workers preparing sandwiches, and street vendors. Individuals handling produce, servers, and hosts would not need to be certified. Some municipalities have already enacted by-laws that require all food handlers to have food handler certification. If you're unsure whether or not your municipality has a food handler by-law; we encourage you to either call the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit or your local municipal office.

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit's food handler's courses are not the only ways for people to become certified. You can also become certified through private companies, university and college courses, and other health units. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit at 519-258-2146 ext. 1473, or visit the website at <http://www.wehealthunit.org/inspect/food-safety-1>.

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