Happy New Year – What are your Food Safety Resolutions?

Some Ideas from the CDC

The New Year is the time when many people review their old habits and decide where they'd like to change or to reinstate former good behaviors that may have fallen off. While "New Year Motivation" is running high, it's a good time to take review your food safety resolutions.

In December, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new findings and prevention tools to improve food safety in restaurants. Researchers identified gaps in restaurant worker education and in public health surveillance, two critical tools necessary in preventing a common and costly public health problem.

The research identifies food preparation and handling practices, worker health policies and enforcement issues, and hand-washing practices among the underlying environmental factors that often are not reported during foodborne outbreaks as part of the public health process, even though nearly half of all the foodborne outbreaks that are reported each year are associated with restaurants or delis. Forty-eight million people become ill and 3,000 die in the United States.

"Inspectors have not had a formal system to capture and report the underlying factors that likely contribute to foodborne outbreaks or a way to inform prevention strategies and implement routine corrective measures in restaurants, delis and schools to prevent future outbreaks," said Carol Selman, head of CDC's Environmental Health Specialists Network team at the National Center for Environmental Health. This points to a need to work internally with your chain or foodservice units to reinforce the behaviors that minimize risk.

The CDC's Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net) announced 4 new publications on restaurant food handling practices that have been linked with foodborne illness outbreaks. These publications cover:

- Ground beef handling
- Handling of leafy greens
- Chicken cross-contamination
- Sick food workers

All EHS-Net food safety publications are accompanied by plain-language summaries of the study findings and recommendations.

Click here for more information:

- [Study overview & links](#)
- [CDC news release](#)