



TOWN OF WATERTOWN
Health Department

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6446
Fax: 617-972-6499
www.watertown-ma.gov

Larry Ramdin, MHP, REHS, CHO, CP-FS
Director of Public Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

NOTICE:
UPDATED FOOD ESTABLISHMENT REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention some recent changes The MA Department of Public Health (DPH) has made to State Sanitary Code. The MA DPH amended 105 CMR 590.000: State Sanitary Code Chapter X: Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments (the Retail Food Code) to include sections of the 2013 FDA Food Code with amendments made by FDA in 2015. These changes became effective on October 5, 2018, and all Food Establishments are required to comply with its standards. The updates to the State Sanitary Code is going change the way routine health inspections are conducted in your Food Establishments; because of this there are steps that each establishment must take to be in full compliance. Enclosed you will find guidance documents, links to helpful resources, an overview of changes to the State Sanitary Code Chapter X, and the steps that each establishment must complete to be ready for your first inspection under the updated code.

2013 FOOD CODE TRAINING

The Watertown Health Department will be holding a free training for all for establishments on the 2013 Food Code. This will provide our establishments with an opportunity to discuss any questions they may have regarding the 2013 Food Code before the Health Officers go live with enforcing the 2013 Food Code during all routine inspections beginning *July 1st, 2019*.

****It is expected that all establishments are in full compliance of the 2013 Food Code during routine inspections after July 1st 2019. We are strongly encouraging everyone to take advantage of this free training****

As a Health Department, it is our regulatory responsibility to assist our Food Establishments through this transition, and to continue to ensure Watertown's Food Establishments are successful in preparing and serving safe food. Please review all enclosed material diligently. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to working together to ensure a smooth transition to the new code requirements.

To obtain a copy of the amended 105 CMR 590.000 visit: <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/105-CMR-59000>.

Sincerely,

Kristel Bennett
Chief Environmental Health Officer

Rajit Gupta
Health Officer

Erin Olson
Health Officer

(Please note a copy of this letter will be posted on the Health Department website for convenient reference)

Any questions regarding this matter that cannot be answered by the enclosed material may be directed to your assigned Health Officer, or the Chief Environmental Health Officer at Watertown Health Department (617) 972-6446.