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Health Inspection Program

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To: Department of Education, and School Food Service Directors

From: Lisa Silva, Program Manager, Health Inspection Program

Re: Maine School Kitchen Inspection Policy 2017-2018

I am writing in response to the USDA's Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004's mandate that requires two school kitchen inspections be conducted at each of Maine's 611 schools each school year.

The Health Inspection Program currently inspects all school kitchens at least once per school calendar year, which is consistent with our risk-based inspection approach. Inspection results show that Maine schools perform very well, with few, if any violations. The failure rate for school inspections is very low. There were no failed inspections for school year 2016-2017 and only one school failed in each of the school years 2015-2016 and 2014-2015. When a school fails an inspection, a follow up inspection occurs very soon and within the school year.

School foodservice personnel are well trained in food safety and handling practices. Schools are required to have one Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) on staff (there are some exemptions to this) and foodservice personnel also participate in a food handler's course called *Serving it Safe*. Both the CFPM and food handler courses require passing an exam. CFPMs receive a certification and food handlers receive a certificate. The certification and certificate are valid for five years. In addition, all Maine schools are required to have in place and practice a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Plan (HACCP).

According to the US FDA and based on the practices described above, Maine schools fall into a low food safety risk category that requires only one inspection per year. We believe that performing one inspection per school calendar year in most schools is adequate to ensure food safety in Maine school kitchens.

Please call me at 287-5691 or email me at [lisa.silva@maine.gov](mailto:lisa.silva@maine.gov) if you have any questions. Thank you for your good work!

Sincerely,

Lisa Silva  
Program Manager  
Health Inspection Program  
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Maine CDC  
Department of Health and Human Services