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February 28, 2023

Dear food service establishment owners and operators,

On February 16th, 2023, Connecticut formally rescinded the Connecticut Food Code (19-13-B42) and adopted the 2022 FDA Food Code. The FDA Food Code is now the food safety regulation that all our licensing, inspection, and enforcement activities must comply with. We encourage you to review the food code, which can be found here: <https://www.fda.gov/food/fda-food-code/food-code-2022>. While the FDA Food Code is new to us all, and there are some changes, the major components of food safety and best practices have not changed. These will continue to be the focus of our inspections:

- Proper handwashing
- Sick food worker policies
- Proper cooling, hot and cold holding temperatures
- Internal cooking temperatures, and
- Cleaning and sanitizing

Chatham Health District will be offering training on the new food code in the coming weeks. These trainings will include a detailed review of the new inspection form, new food code requirements, and how they will be enforced. We are coordinating with the Connecticut Department of Public Health Food Protection Program to implement the necessary changes to our licensing, inspection and enforcement program.

Chatham Health District is committed to working with you throughout this transition, with an emphasis on education and understanding. Our Food Inspector Training Officer (Jaime Ellis) will be coordinating these efforts. To help with a smooth transition, please send any questions about the FDA Food Code to Jaime.Ellis@chathamhealth.org, and we will work as quickly as possible to respond. We thank you for your understanding and look forward working with you as we make this transition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Melmed', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Russell S. Melmed
Director of Health