



April 5, 2006

Janice Buchanan
Conference Chair
Conference for Food Protection
1085 Denio Avenue
Gilroy, California 95020-9206

Dear Ms. Buchanan:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is pleased to be a part of the 2006 biennial meeting of the Conference for Food Protection and is excited to offer its support for the conference's food safety training recommendations. CDC is especially pleased to encourage certification of food safety kitchen managers in food service establishments.

CDC's National Center for Environmental Health sponsors a variety of activities—most notably the Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net)—to support environmental public health service programs. EHS-Net is a collaborative project of CDC, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and nine states (currently including California, Connecticut, Georgia, Iowa, New York, Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Tennessee). The network's purpose is to conduct research that will contribute to our understanding of the causes of foodborne illness.

Results of a recent EHS-Net cross-sectional study strongly suggest that the presence of a certified food safety kitchen manager significantly reduces the risk for outbreaks of foodborne illness in restaurants. In fact, the presence of a certified food safety kitchen manager was the major distinguishing factor between restaurants in which foodborne illness outbreaks occurred and restaurants in which foodborne illness outbreaks did not occur. For this study, certified food safety kitchen managers were defined as managers who received a certificate upon completion of a food safety training course. Certified food safety kitchen managers were also associated with the absence of bare-hand contact with food as a contributing factor for foodborne illness outbreaks and with fewer norovirus and *Clostridium perfringens* outbreaks. Results of the study, titled Systematic Environmental Evaluations to Identify Differences Between Outbreak and Nonoutbreak Restaurants, will be published in the *Journal of Food Protection* this year. Although further studies involving a larger series of foodborne illness outbreaks are needed, the findings of this study clearly support the Conference for Food Protection's efforts to encourage the certification of food safety kitchen managers.

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CDC, along with other federal, state, and local partners, will continue to support the Conference for Food Protection in developing food safety recommendations built on sound science. We are excited about the opportunity to work with you to translate this sound science into effective public health practice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Frumkin'.

Howard Frumkin, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Director, National Center for Environmental
Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry

cc: Trevor Hayes, CFP Executive Secretary
Marilyn Radke, M.D., M.P.H.
Sharunda Buchanan, Ph.D.
Art Liang, M.D.
Art Banks