

# Reminder Notice from the Board of Health

## ***October 1, 2010 was the effective date of the new Food Allergy Awareness Regulation***

In June 2010, the state Food Code was amended to comply with the Act Relative to Food Allergy Awareness in Restaurants which the Governor signed into law in January 2009. Copies of the new regulation and related documents are available on the MDPH/BEH Food Protection Program website. To find this information:

- (1) Go to the FFP website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/fpp>
- (2) Select "Food Allergen Awareness Regulation" link under "What's New"
- (3) See "Food Allergen Awareness Regulation" under "Special Operations"

These amendments to the Food Code became effective on October 1, 2010, and apply to all food establishments that cook, prepare, or serve food intended for immediate consumption either on or off the premises. In order to meet these new requirements, food establishments must:

- Display a copy of a poster in the employee work area, and
- Place a notice to consumers on menus and menu boards.

**Poster in Employee Work Area** - The 8.5" by 11" poster that must be displayed in the employee work area is available on line at <http://www.foodallergy.org/page/restaurant-poster>. The "employee work area" is a conspicuous and accessible place where notices to employees are usually placed and easily read. See 105 CMR 590.009(G)(1) for more details about this requirement..

**Notice to Consumers on Menus and Menu Boards** - Menus and menu boards must include a notice which reads, "Before placing your order, please inform your server if a person in your party has a food allergy." The notice must be displayed in a clear and conspicuous manner, and the notice on menu boards must meet the font size requirements discussed in 105 CMR 590.009(G)(2)(b).

**Additional Requirements after February 1, 2011** – Certified food protection managers in effected establishments must obtain a certificate by 2/1/11 which shows that they have viewed the allergen awareness training video being developed by MDPH. Three vendors are approved by MDPH to issue these certificates in accordance with 105 CMR 590.009(G)(3)(a). The names of the vendors and their contact information will be posted on the FPP website listed above.