Food Safety and Defense
(REVISED 2015)

The New Hampshire Public Health Association (NHPHA) recognizes the need to expand and strengthen initiatives to protect the public from intentionally and unintentionally contaminated food, in order to prevent illness and outbreaks of food borne disease. One (1) in six (6) Americans get sick, hundreds of thousands are hospitalized, and 3,000 Americans die each year from food borne illnesses (CDC 2010).

National, state, and local public health activities are essential in guarding the food supply. In 2011, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act overhauled the role of the Food and Drug Administration. Also important are the role of the State of New Hampshire and local health officers and local health departments.

The NHPHA promotes evidence-based public policies that:

- Address potential threats to the food supply proactively;
- Provide frequent monitoring of food service establishments to ensure compliance with regulations;
- Improve surveillance and investigation of food borne disease, and investigation and control of food borne outbreaks when they occur;
- Promote local and sustainable food supplies;
- Educate consumers, the food service industry, and health care professionals about preventing food borne illness;
- Educate health care professionals to diagnose and treat food borne illness; and
- Educate the food service industry about improving the security of the food supply.

Resources

Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, CDC Estimates of Foodborne Illness in the United States, found at:
http://www.cdc.gov/foodborneburden/index.html


FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, FDA FSMA Home Page
http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/

Food defense resources: http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodDefense/default.htm


http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6203a1.htm