

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
11 State House Station
286 Water Street
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel; (207) 287-8016; Fax (207) 287-9058
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

Tel. (207) 287-5671

Maine CDC Health Inspection Program

Fax (207) 287-3165

To: Department of Education and School Food Service Directors
From: Lisa Silva, Program Manager, Maine CDC Health Inspection Program
Re: Maine School Kitchen Inspection Policy 2023-2024

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 581 schools each school year.

The Maine CDC Health Inspection Program strives to inspect all school kitchens once per school calendar year, which is consistent with our risk-based inspection approach. Maine schools perform very well in their inspections. There were no failed inspections for the 2021-2022 school year and only one for school year 2022-2023. When a school fails an inspection, a follow up inspection occurs shortly thereafter 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) which requires passing an exam. Once the exam is passed, a CFPM certification is received and it is valid for five years. All Maine schools are also required to have and practice a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Plan.

Based on the practices described above, we believe performing one inspection per school calendar year is adequate to ensure food safety in most Maine school kitchens.

Please call me at 287-5691 or email me at lisa.silva@maine.gov if you have questions. Thank you for your good work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Silva".

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