

January 3, 2012

CONTACT: Nancy Braden, 303-239-7137 Public Information Coordinator FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD SAFETY CLASS PREVENTING FOOD-BORNE ILLNESSES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

The Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) offers a food safety class for food handlers. The "Excellence in Food Safety" program is a two-hour class designed for all individuals currently working in, or considering employment in, the food service industry as well as anyone interested in serving safe food. The class is offered in English and in Spanish.

JCPH is committed to working with the food industry and the community to reduce the incidence of food-borne disease. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that "48 million people (roughly 1 in 6) get sick, more than 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 Americans die each year" from food borne illness and poor hygienic practices. How important is food safety? Consider how important food is in our daily lives - we literally cannot live very long without it. Safe food handling practices help to ensure that the food we eat is free from bacteria and germs that can cause serious illness. Food safety is not only important, it is essential to preventing illness from the daily activity of eating.

Many of us eat food prepared by others, in restaurants, outdoor events, fast-food places, etc. Owners and managers of food establishments, food handlers and all food service employees are encouraged to come and learn how they can become actively involved in the reduction of food borne illness in Jefferson County.

The "Excellence in Food Safety" program provides trainings for the food service industry on essential food handling techniques and personal hygiene, including proper hand washing. The cost for this comprehensive food safety class is only \$10.00. The class is offered in Spanish or English. Participants receive an ID card upon completion of the class.

For more information or to register for an upcoming class, please call 303-271-5700 or visit our website at www.jeffco.us/health.