

Pennsylvania Department of Aging
Food Service Safety Certification Resources

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, county health departments and local health departments complete food safety inspections across the Commonwealth. The requirement for food safety certification is dictated by the agency (Department of Agriculture or the local department of health) that conducts the licensing and inspection for the food site.

It is up to the AAA, in consultation with the licensing and inspection agency's sanitarian, to define the required food safety certification for the workers at the food site.

1. ServeSafe classes are available in multiple locations year round. These classes provide a certification certificate good for five years. Information is available at these websites:

<http://extension.psu.edu/food/safety/courses/servsafe>

<https://www.servsafe.com/ss/sra/pa/>

2. Two members of the PA Department of Aging network are certified ServeSafe instructors. They can be contacted to schedule a class.

Ann Horrigan, ccaging4@ptd.net

Nan Beitel-Vessels, nancyvessels@lehighcounty.org

Please note that the PDA no longer provides the ServeSafe books and tests.

If your local sanitarian requires sanitation training other than ServeSafe but annual sanitation training needs to be provided and documented the following resources are available:

1. Food Safety on the Go, a program developed by Meals on Wheels Association of America, in conjunction with The University of Maryland, is aimed at teaching basic sanitation information to Meals on Wheels volunteers.

<http://nfsc.umd.edu/programs/foodsafety>

2. The National Restaurant Association has a food safety course offering certification, when taught by a certified ServeSafe instructor. The course is not as intensive as ServeSafe and may be acceptable to the inspecting agency.

<https://www.servsafe.com/ss/catalog/FHCategories.aspx>

3. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has two programs which they can present. Nonprofit Certification Course, a program for food safety and sanitation training for nonprofit food handlers, and Cooking for Groups: A Volunteers Guide to Food Safety. These are presented by a Department of Agriculture sanitarian, and can be scheduled through the Harrisburg office, (717) 787-4737.