

Food Establishments COVID-19 Safety Certified

The outbreak of COVID-19 is impacting all businesses, including the hard-working owners, operators, farmers, delivery drivers, staff, and just about everyone in the food and restaurant industry.

Government and social responses are changing at a rapid pace, and we believe it's more important than ever to monitor what's happening to rally support however we can. Together we are working to ensure the Dining Experience is safe for all and helping small business by inspiring Consumer confidence to return to dining out.

The Houston Health Department Retail Food Program and Greater Houston Restaurant Associations have partnered on COVID-19 Certification Course as a part of the Better. Together. Campaign, designed to limit the spread of COVID-19 in restaurants.

We are offering a COVID-19 training course geared toward educating and encouraging restaurants to formalize an internal program for their establishments. The course is centered around promoting prevention measures and precautions for individuals who work and eat in Food Establishments. The course is free and provides certificates to employees who complete the training. An additional certification can be attained by the Restaurant, with a door insignia/placards, that announces the business as Better. Together COVID-19 Safety Certified.

About the Course

The course is user friendly and lasts about 10-12 minutes diving the information into 3 themes, Protocols Restaurant should follow, Employee Health and Safety, and Customer Health and Safety. It covers important measure such as best practices for buffet lines, self-service beverage services, providing menu options, how workers can prevent the spread of the disease in the workplace through employees screening and designating a responsible staff person each shift and customer safety through signage encouraging staying home if ill, proper times to wear a face covering and the restaurants protocols for cleaning and disinfecting common surface.

Employees and Restaurants receiving certification will signify to the public that your operation and your employees are dedicated to the safety and welfare of their customers and to providing the safest dining experience possible.

Obtaining Certification

For employees: The training can be accessed at the Consumer Health Website at this link:

www.houstonconsumer.org

You will be prompted to create an account. At the conclusion of the course, the student will receive a certificate that they can print immediately for your records.

For your Restaurant: To qualify for the COVID-19 Safety Certified status, you will need to ensure approximately 20% of your team has successfully taken the online training course. See application for details.

Please email the completed application including copies of Employee COVID Training Certificates to chs@houstontx.gov. If approved, the COVID Training Certification will be postal mailed within 2 business days of receipt. Only the original certification is valid, therefore the Environmental Permits Office (EPO) will not email or fax copies of certifications.