

GO FOR GREEN

Placard Program

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to outline the Placard Program that will be used in Marin County and the resources available to assist food facility owners and operators.

BACKGROUND

The **GO FOR GREEN** Placard Program will be implemented by the Marin County Environmental Health Services Division. The goals of this program will be the following:

- Reduce food-borne illness
- Increase compliance with food safety laws
- Convey inspection results in a manner that is easy to interpret

SCOPE

Food establishments in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Marin County will be required to post a placard once it has been issued. This would include all restaurants, bars, coffee houses, bakeries, schools and markets.

PLACARDS

The same criteria are used for all types of food establishments.

PASS. A Green Pass Placard is issued when no more than one major violation is observed. The major violation must be corrected or mitigated at the time of inspection. Minor violations must be corrected within the time frame indicated on the inspection report. A reinspection may be conducted if any of the violations are not permanently corrected in a timely manner.

CONDITIONAL PASS. A Yellow Conditional Pass Placard is issued when two or more major violations are observed. These violations must be corrected or mitigated at the time of inspection. A reinspection will be conducted within 24-72 hours to ensure all major violations remain corrected. Minor violations are required to be corrected within the time frame indicated on the inspection report. If all major violations remain corrected during the reinspection, a Green **PASS** placard will be issued at the reinspection.

CLOSED. A Red Closed Placard is issued when an imminent threat to health and safety is observed. Examples of imminent health hazards include: surfacing sewage, no hot and/or cold running water, rodent/insect infestation, or severe unsanitary conditions. The Red **CLOSED** placard must remain posted and facility closed until a reinspection is conducted to confirm that the imminent health hazard no longer exists. A new placard will be issued at the reinspection.



TRAINING CLASSES

Environmental Health Services will be offering “Go for Green” training classes at no cost to participants. The specific criteria for the placard program, as well as basic food safety training will be reviewed in each class. The goal of these classes is to provide individuals with a complete understanding of how to receive and maintain a Green “PASS” placard.

Please visit our website at www.marincounty.org/ehs for a list of the upcoming classes.

RESOURCES

The **California Retail Food Code** provides for the regulation of health and safety sanitation standards for retail food facilities and is the primary reference used in food facility inspections.

The **Major Violations Based on Five CDC Risk Factors** gives a comprehensive list of major violations that could be cited on inspection, with some examples.

Both of these documents can be accessed from our website located at www.marincounty.org/ehs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information, contact the Environmental Health Services at (415)473-6907, or go to the Environmental Health website at www.marincounty.org/ehs.

February 2014