

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**

Butch Tongate, Cabinet Secretary

J.C. Borrego, Deputy Secretary

**NEWS RELEASE***For Immediate Release***January 12, 2018**

*The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.*

**Contact:** Allison Scott Majure, Communications Director  
New Mexico Environment Department  
505.231.8800 | [Allison.majure@state.nm.us](mailto:Allison.majure@state.nm.us)

**NM Environment Department Extends Implementation Deadline  
for Food Handler Cards on Behalf of Permitted Food Establishments**  
*Revised Food Safety Rules Were First Adopted in 2016--Implementation Period  
for Certain Provisions Now Extended Beyond March 1, 2018*

**Santa Fe** – The deadline for implementation of Food Handler Card and Certified Manager requirements for New Mexico's food establishments will be extended until further notice, while the state's Environment Department continues to work with the regulated community, according to officials at NMED's Environmental Health Bureau. Through NMED's Environmental Health Bureau, New Mexico's food program regulates all food establishments in the state outside of the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County, which operate their own food safety programs.

NMED will continue dialogue with food establishments and industry to address questions regarding the Food Handler Card and Certified Manager requirements and to draft modifications to the regulatory provisions as needed. Any necessary regulatory changes will need to be approved and adopted by the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) through a public proceeding. Therefore, the effective date for implementing the food safety enhancements has been extended until further notice.

"We want to assist permitted food establishments across the state with compliance. Our dialogue will ensure that they are able to meet the recently adopted food rules that are designed to improve food safety and reduce the incidence of foodborne illness," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Butch Tongate.

For further information or if you have questions or comments, please contact the Food Program Manager Johnathan Gerhardt at [food.program@state.nm.us](mailto:food.program@state.nm.us) or (505) 222-9515.

Further information will also be provided at the Food Program website:  
[https://www.env.nm.gov/fod/Food\\_Program/Regulation\\_Update.htm](https://www.env.nm.gov/fod/Food_Program/Regulation_Update.htm)

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**For your Twitter Feed:** NM Env. Dept. Extends Implementation Period for Food Handler Cards, etc.  
Implementation Period Now Extended Beyond 3/1/18 #NM, #NMED

**For your Facebook Feed:** The deadline for implementation of Food Handler Card and Certified Manager requirements for New Mexico's food establishments will be extended until further notice, while the state's Environment Department continues to work with the regulated community, according to officials at NMED's Environmental Health Bureau. Revised food safety rules were first adopted in 2016. The implementation period for certain provisions is now extended beyond March 1, 2018, until further notice. Through NMED's Environmental Health Bureau, New Mexico's food program regulates all food establishments in the state outside of the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County, which operate their own food safety programs. NMED will continue dialogue with food establishments and industry to address questions regarding the Food Handler Card and Certified Manager requirements. Further information is available from NMED's Food Program Manager Johnathan Gerhardt at [food.program@state.nm.us](mailto:food.program@state.nm.us) or (505) 222-9515. Further information will also be provided at the Food Program website: [https://www.env.nm.gov/fod/Food\\_Program/Regulation\\_Update.htm](https://www.env.nm.gov/fod/Food_Program/Regulation_Update.htm) #NM, #NMED

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