**Cooling Time/Temperature Control for Safety Foods**

(Sample SOP)

**PURPOSE:** To prevent foodborne illness by ensuring that all time/temperature control for safety foods are cooled properly.

**SCOPE:** This procedure applies to school nutrition employees who prepare or serve food.

**KEY WORDS:** Cross Contamination, Temperatures, Cooling, Holding, Time/Temperature Control for Safety Foods, TCS Foods

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Train school nutrition employees on using the procedures in this SOP. Refer to the Using and Calibrating Thermometers SOP.
2. Follow state or local health department requirements.
3. Modify menus, production schedules, and staff work hours to allow for implementation of proper cooling procedures.
4. Prepare and cool food in small batches.
5. Chill food rapidly using an appropriate cooling method:

* Place food in shallow containers no more than 2 inches deep and uncovered on the top shelf in the back of the walk-in or reach-in cooler.
* Use a quick-chill unit such as a blast chiller.
* Stir the food in a container placed in an ice water bath.
* Add ice as an ingredient.
* Separate food into smaller or thinner portions.
* Pre-chill ingredients and containers used for making bulk items such as salads.

1. If state or local requirements are based on the *FDA Food Code*, chill cooked, hot food from:

* 135 ºF to 70 ºF within 2 hours. Take corrective action immediately if food is not chilled from 135 ºF to 70 ºF within 2 hours.
* 70 ºF to 41 ºF or below in remaining time. The total cooling process from 135 ºF to 41 ºF may not exceed 6 hours. Take corrective action immediately if food is not chilled from 135 ºF to 41 ºF within the 6 hour cooling process.

1. Chill prepared, ready-to-eat foods such as tuna salad and cut melons from 70 ºF to 41 ºF or below within 4 hours. Take corrective action immediately if ready-to-eat food is not chilled from 70 ºF to 41 ºF within 4 hours.

**Cooling Time/Temperature Control for Safety Foods, continued**

(Sample SOP)

**MONITORING:**

1. Use a clean, sanitized, and calibrated probe thermometer to measure the internal temperature of the food during the cooling process.
2. Monitor temperatures of products every hour throughout the cooling process by inserting a probe thermometer into the center of the food and at various locations in the product.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:**

1. Retrain any school nutrition employee found not following the procedures in this SOP.
2. Reheat cooked, hot food to 165 ºF for 15 seconds and start the cooling process again using a different cooling method when the food is:
   * Above 70 ºF and 2 hours or less into the cooling process; and
   * Above 41 ºF and 6 hours or less into the cooling process.
3. Discard cooked, hot food immediately when the food is:
   * Above 70 ºF and more than 2 hours into the cooling process; or
   * Above 41 ºF and more than 6 hours into the cooling process.
4. Use a different cooling method for prepared ready-to-eat foods when the food is above 41 ºF and less than 4 hours into the cooling process.
5. Discard prepared ready-to-eat foods when the food is above 41 ºF and more than 4 hours into the cooling process.

**VERIFICATION AND RECORD KEEPING:**

School nutrition employees will record temperatures and corrective actions taken on the Cooling Temperature Log. School nutrition employees will record if there are no foods cooled on any working day by indicating “No Foods Cooled” on the Cooling Temperature Log. The school nutrition manager will verify that school nutrition employees are cooling food properly by visually monitoring school nutrition employees during the shift and reviewing, initialing, and dating the temperature log each working day. The Cooling Temperature Logs are to be kept on file for a minimum of 1 year.

**DATE IMPLEMENTED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ BY: ­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DATE REVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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