**Serving Food**

(Sample SOP)

**PURPOSE:** To prevent foodborne illness by ensuring that all foods are served in a sanitary manner.

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

**KEY WORDS:** Cross Contamination, Service, Serving Food

**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. Follow the employee health policy. (Employee health policy is not included in this resource.)
4. Wash hands before putting on gloves, each time the gloves are changed, when changing tasks, and before serving food with utensils. Refer to the Washing Hands SOP.
5. Avoid touching ready-to-eat foods with bare hands. Refer to the Using Suitable Utensils when Handling Ready-To-Eat Foods SOP.
6. Handle plates by the edge or bottom; cups by the handle or bottom; and utensils by the handles.
7. Store utensils with the handles up or by other means to prevent contamination.
8. Hold time/temperature control for safety food at the proper temperature. Refer to the Hot and Cold Holding for Time/Temperature Control for Safety Foods.
9. Serve food with clean and sanitized utensils.
10. Store in-use utensils properly. Refer to the Storing In-Use Utensils SOP.
11. Date mark and cool time/temperature control for safety foods or discard leftovers. Refer to the Date Marking Ready-to-Eat, Time/Temperature Control for Safety Foods, and Cooling Time/Temperature Control for Safety Foods SOPs.

**MONITORING:**

A designated school nutrition employee will visually observe that food is being served in a manner that prevents contamination during all hours of service.

**Serving Food, continued**

(Sample SOP)

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:**

1. Retrain any school nutrition employee found not following the procedures in this SOP.
2. Replace improperly handled plates, cups, or utensils.
3. Discard ready-to-eat food that has been touched with bare hands.
4. Follow the corrective actions identified in the Washing Hands; Using Suitable Utensils When Handling Ready-To-Eat Foods; Date Marking Ready-to-Eat, Time/Temperature Control for Safety Foods; Cooling Time/Temperature Control for Safety Foods; and Hot and Cold Holding for Time/Temperature Control for Safety Foods SOPs.

**VERIFICATION AND RECORD KEEPING:**

The school nutrition manager will periodically check the storage and use of utensils during service. In addition, the school nutrition manager will complete the Food Safety Checklist daily. The Food Safety Checklist is to be kept on file for a minimum of 1 year.

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

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

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