



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Color-Coded Placarding System Implemented to Reduce Food Borne Illness and Improve Compliance

(Woodland, CA) – On July 1, 2017, food safety inspectors began posting color-coded placards to rate food safety inspection results at restaurants, grocery stores, delicatessens, school cafeterias, licensed health care facilities and other permanent food businesses, as well as on food trucks, throughout Yolo County. Consumers will now know if their favorite restaurant, and other similar establishments, have passed their health inspection by simply looking at the color-coded placard near the front door.

“We chose the green-yellow-red placarding system because it is simple to understand and similar to programs in other northern California counties which have been successful in reducing food borne illness and improving compliance,” said Planning, Building and Environmental Health Director Leslie Lindbo.

This new program issues a green (pass) placard if no more than one major violation is observed during an inspection. A yellow (conditional pass) placard is issued if two or more major violations are observed. A red placard is issued, and the facility closed, if a major violation is observed and cannot be corrected during the inspection. Re-inspections are conducted within three business days to convert a yellow placard to a green placard if the major violations are permanently corrected. Examples of major violations include food not at proper temperature, vermin infestation or sewage backing up into the kitchen.

The placards are posted near the front entry or other easily visible location and have a QR code which the public can scan with a smartphone to bring up Yolo County Environmental Health’s database of food facility inspection reports, found here: <https://yoloeco.envisionconnect.com/#/Food/Food/search>.

As part of implementing this program, Yolo County Environmental Health has been providing free “How to Get a Green” classes to all restaurants and food facilities. These classes educate operators and owners on safe food handling practices, major violations and the placarding program.

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