

2025 FDA Retail Food Protection Seminar

December 9 & 10, 2025 | 12 – 5 p.m. ET | Teams Town Hall

Day One – December 9, 2025 | 12-5 p.m. ET

12:00 Welcome FDA Seminar Team

Erik Mettler, MPA, MPH - FDA Assistant Commissioner for Integrated Food Safety Systems Partnerships (OIFSSP)

12:15 Road to Food Code Adoption: A Panel Discussion

Leaders from Maryland, Indiana, and the Northern Mariana Islands share real-world lessons and insights from their journeys in adopting the FDA Food Code.

Aileen Benavente-Pangelinan - Environmental Health Program Manager, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Northern Mariana Islands

Patricia Vaults, MPA - Program Manager, Maryland Department of Health

Mariah Allen-Everingham, MS - Retail Food Program Manager, Indiana Department of Health

1:05 Office of Domestic Partnerships Update

A brief look at how the Office of Domestic Partnerships (ODP) supports and funds participation in the Retail Program Standards—and why it matters for your food safety program.

Maribeth Niesen - Consumer Safety Officer, FDA Office of Domestic Partnerships

Break

1:35 Environmental Health Specialist Network Sick Worker Tool

Learn how the Environmental Health Specialist Network (EHS-Net), which studies real-world food safety practices, developed a practical tool to help identify and manage sick workers in retail food settings.

*CDR Beth Wittry, MPH, REHS - Environmental Health Officer,
CDC's National Center for Environmental Health*

*Dr. Adam Kramer, ScD, MPH, RS - Environmental Health
Officer, CDC's National Center for Environmental Health*

2:00 An Industry Approach to Employee Health Policies: New Seasons Market

Explore practical strategies for developing and implementing employee health policies that promote food safety in retail settings from an industry expert.

Oren Kariri - Food Safety Manager, New Seasons Market

Break

3:20 Outbreak of Listeriosis Associated with a Food Establishment

Lessons learned from an outbreak of Listeria monocytogenes in a retail food establishment.

*Matt Payne, MPH, REHS/RS - Food Protection Program
Supervisor, Connecticut Department of Health*

4:10 Standardization, Creating Consistency Champions | Roadmap to Standardizing Others

Learn about how consistent use of standardization tools can strengthen retail food safety inspections and improve program effectiveness.

Tracynda Davis, MPH – National Standard, Division of Implementation, FDA Office of Retail Food Protection

Cameron Wiggins, MPH - Biologist, Division of Retail Food Protection Policy, Research, and Risk Assessment, FDA Office of Retail Food Protection

4:40 Office of Training, Education, and Development Update

A brief look at how the Office of Training Education and Development (OTED) supports training needs for state, local, territorial, and tribal partners to ensure a strong public health workforce.



Day Two – December 10, 2025 | 12-5 p.m. ET

12:00 Welcome FDA Seminar Team

Hear what's new from the Office of Retail Food Protection, Division of Implementation, and how they support state, local, territorial, and tribal retail food programs and industry partners.

Laurie Farmer – Director - FDA Office of Retail Food Protection

Andre Pierce, MPA, REHS - Director, Division of Implementation, FDA Office of Retail Food Protection

12:25 Coordination of National Special Security Events with Federal, State, and Industry Partners

Learn from DC Health experts about how to manage food safety at large-scale, high-profile events and gain practical insight for managing special events in jurisdictions of any size.

Ivory Cooper - Food Technologist, DC Health

Victoria Grover - Program Manager, DC Health

Break

1:30 Dried Meats: Hazards and Controls

Learn about hazards in dried meats such as carne seca, jerky, and biltong and identify key food safety controls when these products are made at retail.

*Dr. Dana Hanson, Ph.D., M.S. - Associate Professor,
Department of Extension Leader, North Carolina State
University*

Break

3:05 Retail Policy Updates

Get updates from the Division of Retail Food Protection Policy, Research, and Risk Assessment, FDA Office of Retail Food Protection.

Division of Retail Food Protection Policy, Research, and Risk Assessment, FDA Office of Retail Food Protection

3:25 Sneak Peek: Risk Factors in Retail Food Store Delis | New Tools in the Risk Factor Study Toolkit for State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Partners

Get the first peek at the results from our second deli data collection from our national risk factor study and see the latest tools we've developed to make your own data collection easier.

Alisha Johnson, MPH, MBA, RS, REHS - Retail Food Specialist, Division of Implementation, FDA Office of Retail Food Protection

Carolyn White, MPH - Retail Food Specialist, Division of Implementation, FDA Office of Retail Food Protection

CAPT Jessica Otto, MPH, DAAS, REHS, CF-PS - National Standard, Division of Retail Food Protection Policy, Research, and Risk Assessment, FDA Office of Retail Food Protection

4:15 Food Safety Management Systems in the Food Code

Learn about how Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) may be incorporated into the Food Code in the future.

CAPT Jessica Otto, MPH, DAAS, REHS, CF-PS - National Standard, Division of Retail Food Protection Policy, Research, and Risk Assessment, FDA Office of Retail Food Protection

CDR Beth Wittry, MPH, REHS - Environmental Health Officer, CDC's National Center for Environmental Health

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