



## TOWN OF COHASSET

### Board of Health

41 Highland Avenue  
Cohasset, Massachusetts 02025



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

#### Board of Health

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#### Health Agent

Mary Goodwin, RN  
Public Health Nurse

### COHASSET FOOD REGULATIONS

#### PROMULGATED

June 10, 2014

#### A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The mission of the Cohasset Board of Health is to provide the residents of the Town of Cohasset with comprehensive, high-quality Public Health services through evaluating current [and developing new] local policies, procedures, regulations, statements, and programs in the areas of Public Health Nursing, Environmental Health and other Public Health disciplines.

It is in pursuit of this mission that the Cohasset Board of Health is seeking to provide supplemental regulations to 105 CMR 590.000, commonly referred to as the "Food Code". The current version of the Food Code in MA is based upon the 1999 FDA Model Food Code. The intention of the model food codes are the "safeguarding public health and ensuring food is unadulterated and honestly presented when offered to the consumer. It represents FDA's best advice for a uniform system of provisions that address the safety and protection of food offered at retail and in food service" (FDA, 2014).

Since the release of the 1999 FDA Model Food Code, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration has released updates in 2001, 2005, 2009, and 2013 which were developed using the best available science and standard practices. The Model Food Codes are the result of collaboration between "regulatory officials, industry, academia, and consumers that participate in the meetings of the Conference for Food Protection (CFP)" (FDA, 2014).

Since 1999, many provisions of the FDA Model Food Code have changed, but Massachusetts has not kept up, in step, with the science and practice. The current regulations require food safety training, and food protection manager certification, for all Persons-In-Charge (PICs). These certifications are offered by national organizations whose training protocols utilize the *most recent* version of the FDA Model Food Code, resulting in many PICs potentially being confused between their training and the regulations in place.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration "encourages its state, local, tribal, and territorial partners to adopt the latest version of the FDA Food Code. The benefits associated with complete and widespread adoption of the 2013 Food Code as statutes, codes and ordinances include:

- Reduction of the risk of foodborne illnesses within food establishments, thus protecting consumers and industry from potentially devastating health consequences and financial losses.
- Uniform standards for retail food safety that reduce complexity and better ensure compliance.
- The elimination of redundant processes for establishing food safety criteria.
- The establishment of a more standardized approach to inspections and audits of food establishments

(FDA, 2014)

It is the belief of the Cohasset Board of Health that adoption of the 2013 FDA Model Food Code will result in improved food safety practices, and, in turn, improve the health and safety of the residents and patrons of the Town of Cohasset.

**B. AUTHORITY**

This regulation is promulgated pursuant to the authority granted to the Cohasset Board of Health by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 31, which states: "Boards of Health may make reasonable health regulations".

**C. DEFINITIONS**

**1999 CODE** means the 1999 FDA Model Food Code of 1999 Food Code

**2013 CODE** means the 2013 FDA Model Food Code

**FDA** means the United States Food & Drug Administration

**FOOD CODE** means the Cohasset Food Regulations, as amended

**STATE FOOD CODE** means 105 CMR 590.000: State Sanitary Code Chapter X – Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments.

**D. ADOPTION OF THE 2013 CODE**

1. The Cohasset Board of Health hereby adopts the STATE FOOD CODE as the FOOD CODE, with amendments as described in Section (D)(2) of the FOOD CODE.
2. Any references to the 1999 CODE shall be stricken from the STATE FOOD CODE and shall be replaced with the corresponding chapter and/or section of the 2013 CODE.

**E. SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of these regulations is declared invalid or unenforceable, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby but shall continue in full force and effect.

**F. EFFECTIVE DATE**

These regulations shall take effect on July 1, 2014

Margaret S. Chapman (APRN) BC

Signed: JUNE 10, 2014

Margaret S. Chapman, APRN-BC, Chair

E. Kirkpatrick

Elizabeth L. Kirkpatrick, REM, Clerk

[Signature]

Robin M. Lawrence, DDS, MPH, Member