The Hepatitis A virus is transmitted through contaminated food and water when infected people fail to wash their hands properly after using the restroom and then touch someone else’s food who then eats the food and contracts the virus. The virus can survive incomplete cooking and freezing, and can live for up to 10 months in water. After infection, people are contagious for about 2 weeks prior to showing symptoms. Infected food handlers can pass the virus on to others even before realizing that they are sick themselves.

Oklahoma is the only state with a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for restaurant owners who vaccinate their employees against Hepatitis A. Restaurant owners may receive total reimbursement for the immunization expenses. Vaccination of food handlers is a good financial as well as public health investment. It eliminates the risk of Hepatitis A outbreaks caused by infected food handlers with the potential for lawsuits and unhappy customers. Great benefits—

- Protects your employees
- Protects your customers
- Protects your business

Contact Stephanie Bell at 918-595-4102 for information about setting up an account for your employees to receive this vaccination.
Have you been working in a restaurant forever? Do you know all there is to know about it? Then you may be eligible to take the WAIVER TEST instead of attending the food handler safety class again. To qualify, you must:

- Have a valid food handler permit (if expired, you must take the test within 30 days of expiration).
- Pre-register for the class by calling 595-4335.
- Pay $10.00 cash on the date of the test.

Note: There will be no instruction or technical questions answered on the day of the test. It is a comprehensive test and is intended only for those that have prior training and expertise in food safety practices. If you do not pass the test, you must then attend a regular food handler safety class.

See enclosed schedule for dates and times of waiver test.

Don’t Want to Go to Class???

Here’s the way — WAIVER TEST

We now have a new portable computer system to use at each of the outlying centers. This means the old Polaroid picture food handler permits are gone! If you attend a class at Broken Arrow, Collinsville, Sand Springs or South Tulsa, you will now get a computer-printed permit that looks just like those from the Tulsa main office.

Duplicates of the permit may be purchased on the day of the class. If you need an official duplicate of your permit after the day of class, you must go to the Expo Square Health Center (main office) at 4616 East 15th Street (15th & Yale), Tulsa. Call 595-4335 for questions.

Look For Us On The Web!

Our website www.tulsa-health.org is expanding. Soon consumers and restaurant operators will be able to find educational information about inspections as well as findings on recent inspections. We have many resources available now:

- Food handler Study Guides in English, Spanish and Chinese
- Daily self-inspection sheets and food temperature monitoring forms
- Food Safety posters for download or print
- Foodhandler class schedule of dates and times
- Manager Certification information

Keep checking the website.