

CULTURAL FOOD PREPARATION LAWS

Recent articles examining Orange and Los Angeles Counties Asian restaurant issues of compliance with State law on food handling and traditional cultural food preparation practices, can conflict with the State law and the rules for food handling that emanate from enforcement of that law.

Last July, the Orange County Health Agency worked with Vietnamese restaurant owners to resolve issues related to some food items that may be safely stored at room temperature for longer periods than inspectors had allowed. In response to new information on food temperature, State legislation was signed into law that lowers the temperature at which hot foods must be held and allows certain room temperature food to be held for longer periods.

Our Environmental Health Division has been working with representatives of the restaurants on these issues.

- MORE -

MOTION

Burke _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Knabe _____

Antonovich _____

Molina _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Director of Public Health convene meetings with restaurant groups representing various Asian cuisines to determine and report back in 30 days:

1. additional training on the recent State law changes concerning food temperature;
2. additional studies on the safety of traditional cultural food preparation techniques.

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