

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



## PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

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### **City Health Department Details Latest SAFE Participation**

PORTSMOUTH, NH – The Portsmouth Health Department and the UNH Cooperative Extension Program recently executed another cycle of their Safety Awareness in the Food Environment (SAFE) program, an interactive food safety workshop for professional food workers focused on important hygienic practices, controlling time and temperature and preventing cross contamination as food flows through a food service operation.

The Health Department is pleased to recognize the following establishments for having staff members who attended and successfully passed the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Food Safety Seminar: Domo Japanese Cuisine, Hampton Inn, Ken's West End Pizza, Kim Lai Chinese Restaurant, Lexie's Joint, Madeline's Kitchen/Portsmouth Health Food, Mark Wentworth Home, Oar House, Old Ferry Landing, Poco's Bow St Cantina, Portsmouth Mobil, Profile Coffee Bar, Shalimar India Restaurant and WHYM Craft Beer Café.

Although not required in New Hampshire, many states require workers to obtain a Food Handlers Card. Given Portsmouth's increased notoriety as a dining establishment, the Health Department partnered with the UNH Cooperative Extension in 2012 in an effort to increase safe food handling practices and offer a voluntary Food Handlers training course that mirrors the same principles as the nationally recognized certification program. Participants can opt to take an exam at the end of the course and when passed, can obtain a Food Handlers Card. Since the roll-out of the Food Handlers card program, the

Health Department has issued 305 Food Handler cards to employees from all types of local food establishments.

“The attendance at our latest SAFE course demonstrates the dedication of our local food businesses to provide the best service,” expressed Kim McNamara, City Health Officer. “We continue to network with these businesses so they have the appropriate tools to safely serve our community.”

The Health Department and UNH Cooperative Extension offer the free SAFE program twice a year. The next SAFE program is will occur this fall. For more information on this program and other resources, contact the Health Department at 610 -7273.