

# FOOD-SAFE SCHOOLS

The Food-Safe Schools Project was initiated by CDC/DASH in 1999 when there was increased national scrutiny of food safety practices following outbreaks of foodborne illness in schools in a number of states. The goal of this national initiative is to prevent these outbreaks through the development and implementation of coordinated school food safety programs.

*“During the early 21st Century foodborne diseases can be expected to increase. ...New challenges due to foodborne pathogens are likely to emerge in the future” (CDC)*

## National partners in the CDC/DASH Food-Safe Schools project included:

- The American Nurses Foundation (ANF)
- The American School Food Services Foundation (ASFSF)
- The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
- Rhode Island Department of Education/Kids First



**The National Coalition for Food-Safe Schools (NCFSS)** is an alliance of national organizations, professional associations, and government that focuses specifically on improving food safety in US schools through information sharing, networking, and strategic planning of activities.



**The Food-Safe Schools Action Guide**, brought to you by CDC and its partners in the National Coalition for Food-Safe Schools, provides a one-stop resource for preventing foodborne illness. Available at [www.foodsafeschools.org](http://www.foodsafeschools.org).

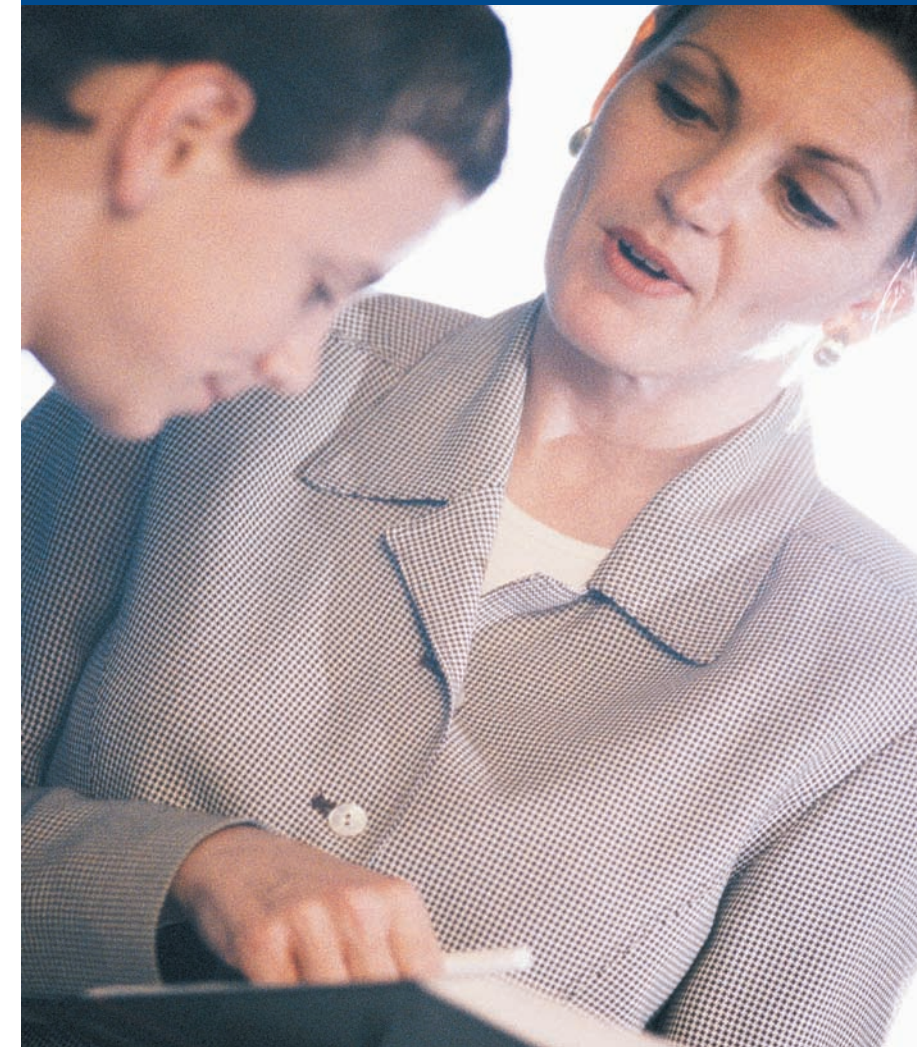


This project made possible through a cooperative agreement with the CDC.

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[www.nursingworld.org/anf/foodsafeschools.htm](http://www.nursingworld.org/anf/foodsafeschools.htm)



# Food-Safe Schools

School Nurses Responding to the Challenges



# The School Nurse in a Food-Safe School



## PREVENTION

- Promotes food safety with school staff
- Emphasizes the importance of hand washing
- Promotes safe handling of foods
- Promotes education of students, staff, and families about food safety and potential symptoms of foodborne illnesses

## EARLY DETECTION

- Recognizes the symptoms of a potential foodborne illness
- Attempts to identify common sources of exposure among ill students
- Collects food history of students with gastrointestinal symptoms
- Monitors changes in absences for potential foodborne illness
- Consults with supervisor or health department about suspicions of foodborne illness

## MANAGEMENT

- Triage and cares for ill students and staff
- Notifies school response team of possible outbreak
- Reduces the risk of the spread of infection
- Documents data relevant to potential outbreak
- Assists health department in investigations
- Follows school/health protocols

## Activities of the Food-Safe School project include:

- Preparation of a school nurse response plan
- Implementation of a train-the-trainer educational plan
- Dissemination of resource information
- Publication of a manual for school nurses

## National Nursing Coalition for School Health Members represent the:

- American Nurses Association
- American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
- American School Health Association, School Nurse Section
- National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
- National Association of Hispanic Nurses
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Association of School Nurses
- National Association of State School Nurse Consultants
- National Center for School Health Nursing

## Food-Safe Schools - Handbook for School Nurses

The handbook features the role of the school nurse including:

- guidance on working with a Food-Safe School team
- assessing a school's risk and developing prevention strategies
- conducting a focused nursing assessment
- documenting and reporting relevant information
- management strategies of foodborne illness scenarios

**The handbook is available from the Food-Safe Schools Project at the American Nurses Foundation (301) 628-5219.**

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The **Food-Safe Schools Project** was initiated at the American Nurses Foundation in collaboration with the National Nursing Coalition for School Health to develop and demonstrate a national strategy that enhances the role of the school nurse in reducing and managing school-based foodborne illness outbreaks at the local or state levels.