March 23, 2015

Q: I understand that new “food handler” regulations will be going into effect on July 1, 2016. How will these new rules apply to staff who deliver food trays or are feeders?

A: We checked with IDPH – Food, Drugs and Dairies and they stated that feeders and persons who deliver trays to residents are not considered “food handlers.” Only the people who handle, prepare and dish up the food are considered food handlers and will need the required training. LTC facilities can train others if they so choose, but it is not required. LTC facilities are considered “non-restaurants” and will need to be in compliance by July 1, 2016, but will not be enforced until January 1, 2017. There will be a six month transition/training period.

Click here for the IDPH FAQ’s for the food handler training changes.