

# PRESS RELEASE



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City Manager

## For Immediate Release

April 1, 2010

## Contact:

Brian Collins  
Director of Health  
Health Department  
Ph. (972) 941-7143

### **Chinese Mandarin Language Food Handler Class Offered May 3** *Pilot program is first of its kind in North Texas*

The City of Plano Health Department is offering Food Handler certification instructed in Chinese Mandarin, May 3, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., City of Plano Municipal Center Building Inspections Training Room, 1520 K Avenue.

The certification carries a fee of \$20 per person, with Food Handler cards issued to participants who complete the session. The class, limited to 30 students, requires pre-registration by Friday, April 30. Persons may register at the Health Department, Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue.

“We offer the training in both English and Spanish but have felt the need to address our Chinese language population as interest in the food industry expands,” said Health Director Brian Collins. “This is a pilot program we have developed that will enable us to determine what future demand exists for this new opportunity.”

Food Handler certification is required for any food service employee who needs to obtain a permit in order to work in a retail food establishment, or for any individual who desires training.

“Education of food handlers provides more qualified employees, reducing the risk of food borne illness outbreaks caused by improper food preparation and handling techniques,” said Mr. Collins. “We want to ensure we reach all segments of the food establishment industry as we continue to address and improve health and safety standards for our citizenry.”

The course is Texas Department of Health Services accredited with the permit valid throughout Texas. Persons requiring additional information on the class or registration process should call 972-941-7143.