

Food Worker Card Class - Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Can you take the class and test online?**
YES. You can take the class and test at <http://www.tpchd.org/food/food-worker-card/online-food-worker-card/>
2. **Who do I contact if I have a question?**
Please contact our Food Program at 425.339.5250. Our hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am to Noon and 1:00pm to 5:00pm.
3. **Do you have to register to take the class ahead of time?**
Pre-registration is NOT required. Please plan on showing up at least 15 minutes ahead of time to find parking and sign in.
4. **How much is the Food Worker Card?**
Cost for the card is **\$10**. We accept cash only, for instructor led classes and Visa and MasterCard credit and debit only for online classes. **NOTE:** The charges for the food worker cards obtained online will be listed under **Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department** on your monthly bank or billing statement.
5. **How long is the class?**
The class generally lasts approximately 90 minutes, including the instruction and the test. Please arrive early to find parking and get signed in. There is no admittance after the class starts.
6. **Are there any age requirements for the class?**
There are no age requirements for getting a Food Worker Card; anyone who can pass the test can get a card.
7. **I need to renew my Food Worker Card. Do I have to take the class and test again?**
YES. To renew a Food Worker Card you must take the class and test again. To receive a 3-year card, you need to renew your old card 60 days before the expiration date.
8. **I have lost my card, how can I get a replacement card?**
For a replacement card, come to Snohomish Health District's Environmental Health Division office (3020 Rucker Ave, Suite 104, Everett) or if you originally received your food worker card online go to www.foodworkercard.wa.gov to print a duplicate. You will receive a copy of the valid card with the original test date for **\$10**. We accept cash only, for instructor led classes and Visa and MasterCard credit and debit only for online classes.
9. **I have a child or student with special needs. Can I read the test to them?**
Yes. We are very flexible and want to meet the needs of each person who needs a Food Worker Card.
10. **I am hearing impaired. What are my options for getting a Food Worker Card?**
We have several options to help meet your needs:
 - a. We have study booklets.
 - b. You could also bring an interpreter or friend to help guide you through the test.
 - c. You can email or call us ahead of time and request for the health district to organize an American Sign Language interpreter to come to a class of your choosing.
 - d. You can go online to <http://www.tpchd.org/food/food-worker-card/online-food-worker-card/> and take the class and test.

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11. ***I am a cashier, (dishwasher/busser/bagger/etc.). Am I required to get a Food Worker Card?***

Yes, cashiers are required to have a food permit. This is a recent requirement from the state and came about as most (if not all) grocery stores have expanded to include food preparation areas such as delis, bakeries and prepared produced. As these stores usually employ hundreds of people that could conceivably be working anywhere in the store, it is a safety precaution that all employees are covered with a food worker permit. Even cashiers and baggers handle raw and ready-to-eat foods and have the ability to cross contaminate through foods, hand, illness, etc.

Many states are adapting what are called "limited use" permits for workers such as cashiers, bussers, stockers and dishwashers but as of yet, Washington has not.

12. ***What options do I have if I speak a foreign language?***

- a. You can bring someone to help translate the information and test.
- b. We have booklets and tests in five languages that cover all the information needed to pass the test. We have Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean. (See Food Worker Class Schedule for times and locations of Spanish classes)
- c. You can go online to <http://www.tpchd.org/food/food-worker-card/online-food-worker-card/> and take the class and test.

13. ***What is a Manager Certification Course?***

The Manager Certification course is an advanced food safety class that helps to meet the Washington state "Demonstration of Knowledge" requirement. We offer Manager Certification Course twice a year in March and October. The Manager Certification Course is a 16-hour course held on four consecutive Wednesdays from 9am-1pm on each of those days. You must be able to attend all of the sessions. After you complete the Manager Certification Course, you will be eligible to receive a 5-year Food Worker Card, perform self inspections and reduce your permit fees. For more information on cost and registration contact the health district at 425.339.5250.