

REMS SAFETY SECURITY PARENT NEWSLETTER - FOOD DEFENSE ARTICLE

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LUSD FOOD DEFENSE PLAN

Lodi Unified School District's Food Defense Plan was developed to protect the District Food which is part of the District's Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS). The REMS grant helped fund the Food Defense Plan.

There are many unforeseen situations that can occur in a school food service operation that could compromise food safety. Those unforeseen situations can be either unintentional or intentional contaminations of food or from natural disasters. Whether the impact from a disruption is one hour or one month, food safety is a priority.

This Food Defense and Emergency Readiness Plan coordinates and interacts with the District's overall REMS plan. It helps the district food service identify steps it can take to minimize the risk that food products in its establishment may be tampered with or contaminated. Although the plan should be in place at all times, it may be particularly helpful during emergencies. During a crisis, when stress is high and response time is at a premium, a documented set of procedures improves Foodservice ability to respond quickly.

This Food Defense and Emergency Readiness Plan is designed to meet the specific needs of the school foodservice operations. Prior preparation, employee training, and practicing activities will minimize the surprise element. This plan ensures the safety of people as well as production, service and storage of food.