



**Cayuga County Health and Human Services**  
160 Genesee Street  
Auburn, NY 13021

**For Immediate Release: Wednesday March 23, 2011**

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### **Notification of Scam Targeting Restaurants**

Cayuga County Health Department officials would like to notify restaurant owners and staff of a scam that is targeting restaurants locally and around the country. Suspicious phone calls are being made to restaurants by individuals claiming to be health inspectors or representatives of the State Department of Health. The callers are requesting business information, phone numbers and other information.

In some cases the scammers request restaurant managers call several other phone numbers. These calls may be billed to the restaurant's phone service and may also help create phony accounts for Craigslist or other websites.

The Cayuga County Health Department would like to remind restaurant owners and staff that food service inspections are unannounced. The Health Department does not call restaurants to schedule routine inspections. Additionally, food service inspections in Cayuga County are provided by Cayuga County Health Department employees in person with proper identification. The Health Department does not provide or request any account codes over the phone.

Restaurateurs and staff members should be on alert! Never provide PINs, passwords or other personal information to a caller you do not know. A caller may be attempting to steal your identity or defraud you.

Restaurant owners and others who receive similar calls should contact local law enforcement and the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov/phonefraud](http://www.ftc.gov/phonefraud).

For questions about Cayuga County Health Department food service inspections call the County's Environmental Health Division at 315-253-1405.

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