

Two editions. One clear scoring rule.

For these practice questions, use the corrected 2022 FDA Food Code plus the December 2024 Supplement.

The course also teaches the 2026 model Code. Keep a later operational update separate from the edition used to score practice. A newer citation is not automatically a different rule. This guide flags the differences that could matter if a question explicitly asked for the 2026 rule.

Exam-prep alignment is based on published provider materials, not access to a confidential exam bank. A provider transition to 2026 has not been verified. Locally adopted requirements govern your operation.

Written employee illness policy

Exam-prep edition: Reporting, exclusion/restriction, reinstatement and verifiable employee notification already apply. Written vomiting/diarrhea cleanup procedures were already required.

2026 difference: The permit holder must provide a written employee illness policy, available on request. It covers required reporting and compliance by food and conditional employees and the PIC, required authority reporting, exclusion/restriction and reinstatement.

What changes an answer? A question about the new written illness-policy documentation duty. This does not change which diagnosed or symptomatic employee must be restricted or excluded.

Sources: 2022: notification, 2-103.11(P) / 2026: 2-501.11(A)-(B)

Medically necessary devices

Exam-prep edition: During food preparation, the express hand/arm jewelry exception is a plain ring. Covering a watch with a glove does not create general permission.

2026 difference: A medically necessary device may qualify for an individual with an ADA-covered disability if kept clean and worn to prevent potential contamination. The plain-ring allowance remains.

What changes an answer? The facts must establish the disability, medical necessity and contamination controls. A smartwatch or medical-alert label alone is not enough.

Sources: 2022: 2-303.11 / 2026: 2-303.11(A)-(C)

Exceptions require all the conditions

Protected inner gloves

Exam-prep edition: Single-use gloves belong to one task. Discard them when damaged or soiled, or when interruptions occur. The older interruption clause is without a contamination qualifier.

2026 difference: With regulatory approval, an intact, uncontaminated interior glove may remain under a task-specific, loose exterior glove. Remove the exterior by gravity, without peeling it off or touching/contaminating the hands or interior glove. Immediately discard a single-use exterior glove.

What changes an answer? Only full approval and safeguards support continued inner-glove use. Separately, 2026 adds contamination wording to the interruption-discard clause. Do not infer blanket reuse after a pause; one-task limits and handwashing triggers remain. The direct-contact slash-resistant restriction moves from Core to Priority Foundation (Pf); ordinary permitted uses do not broaden.

Sources: 2022: 3-304.15 / 2026: 3-304.15(A)-(F)

Cooling

Exam-prep edition: Ordinary cooked-TCS cooling: 135 F to 70 F within 2 hours, and 135 F to 41 F or below within 6 hours total. Shallow pans help meet both limits.

2026 difference: Depth no more than 2 inches is added as an ordinary cooling method. A separate alternative requires regulatory approval: cooked TCS food no more than 2 inches deep, uncovered, in refrigeration maintaining air at 41 F or below, with continuous electronic monitoring of time and ambient air temperature.

What changes an answer? Two-inch depth alone does not waive the ordinary limits. The approved alternative excludes the initial noncontinuous-cooking cooling step, the specified cook-chill/sous-vide reduced-oxygen-packaging cooling step, and food using time instead of temperature control. It is not a rescue declared after a failed check or a new universal extra cooling period.

Sources: 2022: 3-501.14-.15 / 2026: 3-501.14-.15, especially (C)

Recognition habit: First identify the ordinary rule. Then ask whether the question actually gives the approval and conditions for an exception. Do not invent missing facts.

Temperature rules and instruction wording

OTHER chemical sanitizers

Exam-prep edition: Chlorine, iodine and quat have separate conditions. Other chemical sanitizers follow the applicable EPA-registered label. Temperature, concentration, pH/hardness when relevant and contact time belong together.

2026 difference: For a sanitizer OTHER than chlorine, iodine or quat, 4-501.114(E) adds a minimum 75 F unless the EPA-registered label states otherwise. On-site generation does not erase the applicable chemical category.

What changes an answer? A question about the new default for another chemical family could differ. Do not turn 75 F into a new universal minimum or replace label contact time with a storage duration.

Sources: 2022: 4-501.114 / 2026: 4-501.114(E)-(F)

Manufacturer cooking instructions

Exam-prep edition: Commercially packaged food bearing cooking instructions shall be cooked according to those instructions before RTE use or unpackaged consumption, unless instructions allow uncooked use. Disclosed uncontrolled-pathogen food also requires appropriate cooking.

2026 difference: For plant-packaged food, (A) requires hazard-appropriate cooking for the specified 21 CFR 117.136 disclosure. (B) requires the specified USDA safe-handling directions OR 3-401.11. Other manufacturer-instructed packages in (C) SHOULD be cooked, unless uncooked use is specified.

What changes an answer? **SHOULD is not SHALL.** The Pf marker does not make (C) a universal mandate. Do not extend (B)'s alternative to any label or assume all cooking instructions are optional. Plant hot holding still has its ordinary 135 F endpoint, with the new cross-reference.

Sources: 2022: 3-401.15 / 2026: 3-401.13/.15

Commercially dehydrated food

Exam-prep edition: The applicable contamination, cooling and holding controls remain. The edition does not contain the new standalone 3-501.10 instruction provision.

2026 difference: New 3-501.10 says manufacturer rehydration instructions SHOULD be followed for processing-plant-packaged dehydrated food.

What changes an answer? This is advisory wording, not a new universal mandatory temperature, duration or variance. The related Annex discussion is guidance, not an extra numerical rule.

Sources: 2026: 3-501.10

Carry-forward rules are not new rules

Every toilet room

Exam-prep edition: The covered waste-receptacle provision specifically addresses sanitary-napkin disposal in female-use toilet rooms.

2026 difference: Every toilet room must have a covered waste receptacle.

What changes an answer? A 2026 question about whether the receptacle is needed only in a female-use toilet room. This does not change handwashing or other restroom requirements.

Sources: 2022: 5-501.17 / 2026: 5-501.17

Already in the 2024 Supplement

These belong to the declared exam-prep baseline, even if a 2026 source also discusses them: validated laboratory-test clearance paths for Shigella, STEC and nontyphoidal Salmonella; active managerial control and food-defense awareness; specified disinfection and testing duties; revised returnable-container safeguards; and the written food safety management system provision.

Keep every condition: required regulatory approval and pathogen-specific release paths still matter. The FSMS four-year period runs from local adoption, not FDA publication or an exam date. Annex variance discussion does not create a universal new process limit.

Sources: 2024 Supplement: management and medical clearance / Full Supplement amendment text

Citation or guidance clarification

Vomiting/diarrhea cleanup moves from 2-501.11 to 2-502.11 in 2026. The ready-to-eat exclusions are carried forward with renumbering. Cooling corrective-action guidance remains guidance. A new section number or a parallel source link does not by itself change an answer.

Using the narrated review

The current recording declares 2026 operational teaching. In the one-hour review, pay particular attention to slide 5 (illness-policy documentation), slide 14 (inner gloves and devices), slide 38 (approved cooling alternative), and slide 55 (other sanitizers). Use this comparison and the Companion's older-edition tables for scored practice. The operational additions are not instructions to override an exam-prep answer.

Official sources: 2022 Code and Supplement / 2026 synopsis. The synopsis is not an exhaustive redline; the actual Code and Supplement control the comparison.