

FEATURE – USDA BRINGS FOOD SAFETY LESSONS TO DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN

INTRO: U-S-D-A went to an elementary school for deaf and hard of hearing children in Washington, D-C to teach the importance of food safety. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:32)

THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BROUGHT FOOD SAFETY LESSONS TO THE KENDALL DEMONSTRATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON THE CAMPUS OF GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON D-C. U-S-D-A'S FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE, OR F-S-I-S, STAGED A FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION CAMP TO HELP TEACH DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD SAFETY.

Nancy Berrigan, Principal: The students also have an opportunity to really understand how to prepare foods, how to keep them at the right temperatures, what needs to be refrigerated, or frozen or otherwise.

Elyias Assefa, Student: I learned about food safety and if mold or bacteria grows it can make you sick and if you leave it on the counter for under two hours it's fine but if you leave it out for over two hours, it'll make you sick.

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL ESTIMATE THAT ANNUALLY FIVE THOUSAND DEATHS IN THE U-S RESULT FROM FOOD BORNE ILLNESS. F-S-I-S BELIEVES TEACHING CHILDREN THE PRINCIPLES OF CLEAN, SEPARATE, COOK AND CHILL CAN HELP PREVENT ILLNESS AND SAVE LIVES.

Cody Thornton, USDA FSIS: It's important to teach children food safety lessons because they don't yet understand the problems that mundane actions that they do when they eat their food, what that effect could be on them.

Berrigan: So what this camp does is offer an opportunity to students to learn the importance of food safety and they see firsthand the issues around food safety and what bacteria looks like and what food borne illnesses are.

Bob Ellison, USDA STAND-UP: For more information on food safety you can call one eight eight eight m-p hotline or go online at f-s-i-s at u-s-d-a dot gov. In Washington D-C for the U-S Department of Agriculture, I'm Bob Ellison.