Food Service Establishments: Inspection Cycle and Letter Grading

The New York City Health Department inspects all food service establishments to make sure they meet Health Code requirements, which helps prevent foodborne illness. How often a restaurant is inspected depends on its inspection score. Restaurants that receive a low score on the initial or first inspection in the inspection cycle are inspected less often than those that receive a high score.

Initial Inspection Score: 0–13 Points

- Initial Inspection: 11–13 months
- Reinspection: 3–7 months*

Initial Inspection Score: 14+ Points

- Initial Inspection: 7+ days
- Reinspection: 3–7 months*

* The length of time between inspection cycles is based on the higher score received in either the initial or reinspection.

NOTE: The Health Department may order a restaurant to close to correct a public health hazard that cannot be corrected immediately or when a restaurant is operating without a valid permit.

For grading details, see the reverse side.
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