



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MDARD) Local Health Services (LHS) Team is announcing the following training courses and Microsoft Teams meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2025 and for 2026. To enroll for one of the courses, please email the MDARD contact specified for that class.

These training courses and Microsoft Teams meetings are offered to you free of charge. Contact hours are available for each of the training courses referenced in this message.

Training courses include:

- MDARD's Food Law and Michigan Modified FDA Food Code Course Specialized
- Plan Review Course
- Accreditation Trainings
- Standardized Trainer Microsoft Teams meetings
- Specialized Processing Training and Microsoft Teams meetings
- Report Writing Training

MDARD's Food Law and Michigan Modified FDA Food Code

Contact: Rodney Blanchard; blanchardr1@michigan.gov; 517-243-8896

This two-day course will provide training in the Food Law and the 2009 Michigan Modified Food and Drug Administration Food Code. The course is designed for Local Health Department (LHD) and MDARD food inspectors and runs 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Course dates:

January 21-22, 2026

Oakland County-Executive Office Building Conference Center
2100 Pontiac Lake Road Bldg., 41 West
Waterford, Michigan 48328

April 14-15, 2026

University Center at Gaylord
80 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord, Michigan 49735

September 16-17, 2026

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services, Room 361
311 East Alcott Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001

Please note: If Michigan updates the Michigan Food Law and adopts a newer version of the FDA Food Code in 2026, additional large group training courses will be scheduled in collaboration with the Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) and Michigan Environmental Health Association (MALEHA) after the Law is updated.

Plan Review**Contact: Lacey Bull; bulll@michigan.gov; 517-388-5723**

This two-day training will provide guidance on how to conduct a plan review on a food establishment and cover various Food Law and 2009 Michigan Modified FDA Food Code requirements as it pertains to construction of a food establishment. This course is designed for all LHD and MDARD personnel who conduct plan review, and it is encouraged that personnel with five or less years' experience in conducting plan review take part. The course is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Course dates:

November 4-5, 2025
Medical Examiners Auditorium
1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, MI 48328

October 27-28, 2026
Ingham County Health Department
5303 South Cedar Street, Lansing, MI 48911

Accreditation Trainings**Contact: Shane Green; greens2@michigan.gov; 517-930-6737**

This training focuses on what accreditation is, options, indicators of each Cycle 9 minimum program requirement, and how to complete worksheets for a self-assessment. The course consists of both presentation and tabletop exercises. It is designed for any LHD personnel who wish to become familiar with accreditation or is planning on completing a self-assessment for accreditation option 2. The course is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Course dates:

February 24, 2026
Oakland County-Executive Office Building Conference Center
2100 Pontiac Lake Road Bldg., 41 West
Waterford, Michigan 48328

February 26, 2026
Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services, Room 361
311 East Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001

April 16, 2026
University Center at Gaylord
80 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord, Michigan 49735

Standardized Trainers**Contact: Rodney Blanchard; blanchardr1@michigan.gov; 517-243-8896****Standardized Trainer Quarterly Microsoft Teams meetings****A Microsoft Teams invite will be sent to all Standardized Trainers**

January 26, 2026	10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
April 27, 2026	10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
July 27, 2026	10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Standardized Trainers 2026 Annual Training Conference**Dates to be determined****Specialized Processing****Contact: Rachel Stiening; StieningR1@michigan.gov; 269-716-3881**

This training provides a broad overview of specialized processes with emphasis on recognizing possible specialized processing in a food establishment. The course consists of both presentation and tabletop exercises. It is designed for any LHD and MDARD food staff who wish to become familiar with specialized processes.

Course date:

March 24, 2026

Pre-Conference to Michigan Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference

Time to be determined

Microsoft Teams HACCP Chit Chat**A Microsoft Teams invite will be sent to those in the Specialized Processing Email Group**

March 13, 2026	9 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
June 17, 2026	3 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
September 14, 2026	9 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
December 1, 2026	3 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Report Writing**Contact: Shane Green; greens2@michigan.gov; 517-930-6737 or your MDARD Consultant**

Report Writing training courses are available upon request

This training focuses on report writing techniques that aid in meeting Accreditation Minimum Program Requirements as well as best practices in writing a clear, factual, and legally defensible evaluation report. It consists of a speaker presentation followed by tabletop exercises. It is designed to be a half-day training course but can be adjusted to meet the needs of your department.