

# Warning: Health Inspector Imposters

May 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**Public Health**

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is warning food facility owners and operators against scam artists who pose as health inspectors and target restaurants, unlawfully taking money by manipulating food facility owners. To protect yourself and your business, please note the following.

Our Environmental Health Specialists (also known as Health Inspectors), pride themselves on considerate, respectful, and professional service in the field.



## An Environmental Health Specialist Should Always:

- Introduce him or herself to the food facility owner, operator, or manager.
- Present a Los Angeles County-issued photo identification card.
- Provide a Los Angeles County-issued business card upon request.
- Direct the food facility owner, operator, or manager to pay any fees to the local Environmental Health (EH) District Office, EH Headquarters, or the Los Angeles County Treasurer Tax Collector (for health permits).

## An Environmental Health Specialist Should Not:

- Call to schedule appointments for routine inspections — routine inspections are always unannounced.
- Accept any payment for services during an inspection.
- Charge money or fees for *A, B, C Letter Grades*, signs, or equipment.
- Sell or endorse products.
- Ask owners to call phone numbers and enter numeric codes or tell the owner to give out a code when called to schedule an inspection.

## What Should I do if I Receive a Visit or a Call from Someone Claiming to be a Health Inspector?

- If the individual claiming to be a health inspector is unable to provide a valid, LA County-issued photo ID, and/or an LA County-issued business card, contact your local EH District Office to confirm that he or she is a current Environmental Health employee. If the EH District Office is unable to confirm the health inspector's identity, contact your local law enforcement agency.
- If the person requests you pay them directly for a service, contact your local EH District Office and your local law enforcement agency.
- Do not give the person money, pay any "fees," or permit the individual to "inspect" the food facility.
- Do not provide any personal, financial, or security information.
- If possible, get the person's name and contact information.

**The impersonation of a public officer is a criminal offense.** Any person who is found impersonating a health inspector or other government employee may be found guilty of a misdemeanor. [Penal Code, Section 538(d)].

To report fraudulent activity or request more information, contact the Department of Public Health, **Environmental Health Call Center** at **(888) 700-9995**.

**Environmental Health Division**

5050 Commerce Drive, Baldwin Park, CA 91706

[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh)

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