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Press Release: New Report on Food Safety in New York City “Eating Without Reservation”

New York, NY— Every day, more than 2.7 million New York City residents and visitors order food from one of the city’s 26,000 restaurants or more than 5,000 food trucks or carts. Every day, 11 city agencies serve more than 915,000 meals or snacks to the city’s school children, public hospital patients, senior center clients, jail inmates and homeless shelter residents. The one thing these food serving outlets have in common is they are required to follow the food safety standards that New York City enforces for all food service facilities. The new CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute report “Eating Without Reservation: Ensuring Food Safety in New York City” describes what city, state and federal agencies are doing to prevent foodborne illness in New York City and what food safety challenges the city’s food safety system will face in the coming years.

Food safety gets attention when the media reports on outbreak of salmonella attributed to E. Coli on romaine lettuce or the recent listeria avocado scare. But have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes every day to prevent these breakouts? In its newest research report “Eating Without Reservation,” the CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute examines the different agencies that play a role in ensuring food safety in New York City, highlights some of the challenges confronting the city’s food safety system and recommends specific steps New York City, New York State and the federal government can take to continue to protect the safety of the food New Yorkers eat.

“New York City has long been in the forefront of protecting the safety of the urban food supply,” said Nicholas Freudenberg, CUNY Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Director of the CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute and a co-author of the report. “But several threats are emerging including the increased globalization of the nation’s food supply, weaknesses in the city’s food transportation and distribution infrastructure, the rising number of city populations vulnerable to foodborne diseases, and the complex and overlapping responsibilities of city, state and federal government for food safety. Our report emphasizes the importance of taking a step back to ensure that all components of our food safety system have the resources, attention and support needed to fulfill their missions.”

The authors of the report are Aprielle Wills, a doctoral fellow at the CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute; Rositsa Ilieva, the Director of Food Policy Monitor at the Institute; and Nicholas Freudenberg. The CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute is an academic research and action center at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy located in Harlem, NYC. The Institute provides evidence to inform municipal policies that promote equitable access to healthy, affordable food. You can find [the full report here](#).