

**Date:** March, 25th, 2022

**Subject: Grub on Strawberry from Fruit and Vegetable Bar**

To our Belmont Community,



I'm writing to share an incident we're currently working through.

Unfortunately, a student found a grub on a strawberry on Thursday (March 17<sup>th</sup>) at Chenery Middle School. We're aware of a photo circulating on local social media pages.

First off, we'd like to offer our sincerest apologies that this happened. Our produce is always washed and dried before service and this is an unfortunate occurrence. The proper food safety protocols are in place and it's our duty to provide safe and nutritious meals for our students.

Below I have outlined what we have done so far and will continue to do in the future.

- The strawberries were washed and dried Thursday morning (March 17<sup>th</sup>) before service
- The strawberries were put out on the fruit and vegetable bar for students to scoop or tong their own
- The Head Cook was made aware of the bug and alerted me shortly after lunch
- I met CMS Head Cook, Melissa Moran, on Friday (March 18<sup>th</sup>)
  - We discussed what happened and how we could try to prevent in the future
- Wesley Chin (Board of Health Director) and I had an email exchange on Monday (March 21<sup>st</sup>) about the incident
- Wesley visited the Chenery Middle School kitchen on Tuesday (March 22<sup>nd</sup>) to discuss the matter
  - Wesley performed a formal inspection
  - The CMS kitchen inspection can be found at this [link](#)
  - He reassured that the kitchen was clean and felt the team was understanding on preventive measures for the future
- I met with the entire Chenery kitchen team on Wednesday (March 23<sup>rd</sup>)
- I was made aware of which student brought this forward on Thursday (March 24<sup>th</sup>)
- In an effort to show our commitment, we are certifying and re-certifying the majority of our food services team via ServSafe (Food Safety Training) on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>

I can speak for our office and CMS that we regret that this has happened and will do everything in our power to prevent it in the future.

Our official social media page is the following Twitter account ([@BPS\\_Food\\_4\\_Kids](#)).

We can be reached via email or by phone at 617-993-5871 with concerns.

Sincerely,

Dustin O'Brien  
Food Service Director  
Belmont Public Schools