

FEATURE – USDA BRINGS FOOD SAFETY LESSONS TO SCHOOL

INTRO: There are an estimated seventy six million cases of food borne illness in the United States every year and fifty one hundred of those cases are fatal. The U-S Department of Agriculture is working to reduce those numbers by teaching children how to prevent food borne illness. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:41)

THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S FOOD SAFETY MOBILE CAME TO A WASHINGTON D-C AREA SCHOOL TO TEACH ABOUT FOOD BORNE ILLNESS PREVENTION. OFFICIALS WITH USDA'S FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE SAY TEACHING FOOD SAFETY EARLY IN LIFE PREVENTS TROUBLE LATER.

Cmdr. Michelle Everett, USDA FSIS: Children are part of the at-risk population and so that's why we want to target them now. Normally if they are caught early we can take care of them but with this age group you just never know and we just want them to be aware of what the dangers are so that we can prevent that from happening in the first place.

AT THE U-S-D-A FOOD SAFETY DISCOVERY ZONE, THE STUDENTS WERE TAUGHT TO CLEAN HANDS AND SURFACES AND TO KEEP UNEATEN FOOD CHILLED.

Tyraneka Zellars, Student: I'm learning about bacteria and food safety and to make sure that you clean your hands before making anything.

Ayanna Ambush, Student: I'm learning that there is bacteria everywhere.

Jonathan Montgomery, Student: Never leave food out of the refrigerator you can get sick, stomachache or diarrhea.

STUDENTS WERE ALSO TAUGHT TO SEPARATE COOKED AND RAW FOODS AND TO COOK FOOD THOROUGHLY...IMPORTANT LESSONS FOR A LIFETIME.

Rolaetta Alford, Principal: When they leave us then they are going out into the world and learning how to wash their hands and be cognizant of the bacteria and all of these foreign things that are around them. That's something that they will take with them for the rest of their lives.

Bob Ellison USDA: The USDA Food Safety Mobile will be touring the country this summer bringing the clean, separate, cook, chill message to children and adults. In Prince George's County Maryland I'm Bob Ellison for the U-S Department of Agriculture.