



# Food Safety Carnival

## Games to Supplement Training

### Food Safety Concept

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These games/puzzles are adaptable to any food safety concept you wish to reinforce.

### Time

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- Preparation and play time are dependent on the scale of your carnival. Individual activities may take between 30-60 minutes to prepare and 15-20 minutes to play, but those times vary based on the specific game. If you want to combine several activities, allow plenty of prep and play time for each.

### Materials

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- Explore existing minute-to-win-it games at: <https://teambuilding.com/blog/minute-to-win-it-games>
- Explore existing carnival games and activities at: <https://www.carnivalsavers.com/freeboothideas.html>

### Motivated, Educated, and Engaged

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To promote a strong, positive food safety culture throughout your organization, all employees—from frontline to senior leaders—must be motivated, educated, and engaged. These games can help address the **engaged** portion by enhancing or supplementing existing formal training. How can they be adapted to your workplace?

### Game Summary

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- A food safety carnival is one way to highlight food safety over multiple days/shifts with a wide variety of games, such as trivia, minute-to-win-it, or team-building activities. The carnival can be set up in a break room, in a parking lot, or in a greenspace depending on how many and what type of activities are included.
- **Start by identifying your objective:** What food safety concept are you looking to reinforce? Then consider which game(s) might work best with that concept.
- To increase the "carnival" feel, consider awarding small prizes to winners. Consider your team when planning prizes. Would they appreciate small, silly knick-knacks? Or would "coupons" for an extra break be better? Or would team-wide prizes like a catered lunch work well?
- Consider including a "ticket" system for the games. For example, employees could earn additional tries at a prize wheel game by answering food safety questions. Or, if you have an existing rewards and recognition program, tickets for the carnival could be added to the program in the leadup to the carnival.
- Include employees in the planning and preparation of activities to help inform choices about prizes, tickets, and types of games and to increase excitement and buy-in.
- Carnival games can take many different forms, so mix and match, test new ideas, and find what works well for your team. A few examples are included as part of this document. In addition, resources for games can be found online. Some existing games are designed for children use but can be easily adapted for the workplace.



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## Color Me Aware

### *Allergen\* Awareness Carnival Balloons*

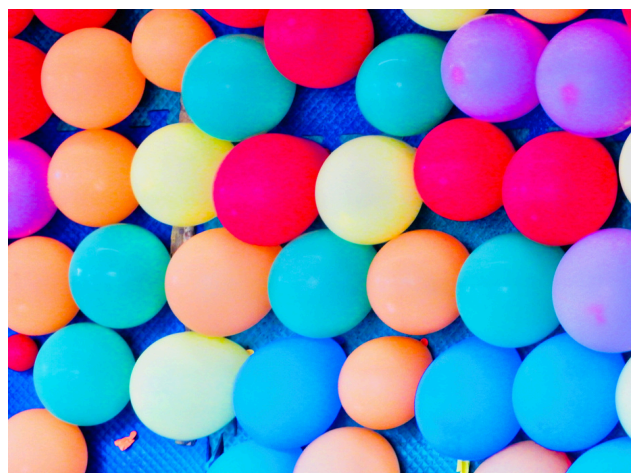
**This carnival activity puts a food safety twist on a classic balloon popping game.**

- Create a balloon wall with multi-colored balloons. Assign each color an allergen which can be found in the product(s) or dish(es) made at your facility or restaurant. Post the key for which color corresponds to which allergen.
- When they step up to play, each person will attempt to pop a balloon using either a dart or a beanbag (*for no-dart balloon setup, see the link below*). Whatever color balloon they pop, they must give an example of a product or dish containing the corresponding allergen.
- *For example:* If red balloons match to sesame, and your restaurant has a tahini dressing on a salad, a player who pops a red balloon might say "tahini salads!" as their response.
- Once a participant has popped a balloon and given a correct example of a food with the allergen at your facility or restaurant, they are a winner!



*If you want to make your balloon game "no-darts-required," find instructions here:*

<https://throughmyfrontwindow.blogspot.com/2016/01/dartless-balloon-game.html>



*\*Allergens could easily be replaced with pathogens.*



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## A Mean, Clean Stacking Machine

### *Minute-To-Win-It Handwashing Cup Stack*

**This game reinforces the steps of proper handwashing through a competitive cup stacking challenge.**

- Depending on how much space you have, this game can be played either with multiple people stacking at once or as a one-person-at-a-time competition timed with a stopwatch.
- Each player will need ten cups: sturdy plastic cups work best. Each cup should have a step in the handwashing process written on it (*see example steps below*). Pictures of the steps can be used instead of or in addition to text.
- Mix up the cups and scatter them around on a table or other surface.
- Have the player(s) stack the cups as quickly as they can in the correct order. Whichever player is able to stack the cups **in the correct order** the fastest is the winner.

#### **Example Handwashing Steps**

1. Remove jewelry & watches
2. Turn on warm water
3. Wet hands
4. Get enough liquid or foam soap
5. Clean wrists, palms, back of hands, fingertips, under nails, and between fingers
6. Lather for 20 seconds
7. Rinse with warm water
8. Dry hands completely with paper towel or air dryer
9. Use paper towel to turn off water
10. Avoid touching dirty surfaces (doorknobs, face, hair)

*(steps 5 and 6 are interchangeable)*

