After three consecutive closure orders following inspections in late March, *We Noodle*, a Chinese restaurant in Manhattan, reopened on Mar. 28. The restaurant was originally called to cease operations by the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) due to serious health code violations.

“Today I ordered a takeaway from their home, and when I opened it, I saw a cockroach. I think their hygienic condition must be worrying,” a customer named ‘Dawson’ left a one-star review on Google about a month ago.

Evidence of mice and conditions favorable for rodents, insects or other pests appeared on both Mar. 20 and during a follow-up inspection five days later.

Although the reopening inspection did not identify foodborne disease risks, the restaurant was still considered for having food contact surfaces that were “not easily cleanable, sanitized, and maintained,” according to the DOHMH. The restaurant now carries a “Z” pending grade because of the closure on initial inspection.

The restaurant grading system in NYC began in Jul. 2010 as a measure of restaurant hygiene standards. Every restaurant is subject to at least one unannounced inspection each year. A diagram of a diagram of a grade level

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Restaurants failing to achieve an “A” in first inspection get opportunities for improvement in re-inspections.

If a closure occurs at an initial inspection like *We Noodle*, the restaurant is given a “Grade Pending” card until the next re-inspection determines its grade. For closures during a re-inspection, the restaurant’s current grade is based on the score received before the closure.

As the new year kicks off, 16 more Chinese restaurants stumbled in the same boat with *We Noodle*, opening and closing repeatedly under DOHMH inspections.

The earliest closure of *Dynasty Taste Lam* dates to three years ago on Jul. 6. The restaurant experienced another closure early this year and reopened in mid-January.

[An opening-and-closing timeline/table of the 17 Chinese restaurants with their most recent closures happening in 2025]

*Chairman Sun*, holding the most violation remarks from DOHMH, closed in late 2024, reopened in less than a week and was hit with closure and reclosure in March.

[A treemap based on the syntax analysis of the Chinese restaurants’ violation descriptions in 2024, and maybe compare it to the case of 2023]

Over the past five years, Queens borough with the most Chinese population, followed by Brooklyn, has sees the most Chinese restaurant closures.

[A NYC borough map dotting the number of Chinese restaurant closures]

It was a week ago when *We Noodle* reopened and responded to ‘Dawson’s’ review.

“Thank you for your feedback. We take hygiene very seriously in our restaurant, and it is highly unusual for any contamination to occur. We ensure that all meals are clean and safe before leaving our kitchen. We apologize for your experience and appreciate your understanding.”