

# DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NO.2



Alcona County

11 Lake St. P.O. Box 218

Harrisville, MI 48740

Tel: 989-724-6757

Iosco County

420 W. Lake Street

Taws City, MI

Tel: 989-362-6183

Ogemaw County

630 Progress St.

West Branch, MI 48661

Tel: 989-345-5020

Oscoda County

393 S. Mt. Tom Road

Mio, MI 48647

Tel: 989-826-3970

April 19, 2011

For Immediate Release

Contact: Douglas Getty, Environmental Health Director  
989-343-1803

## TEMPORARY FOOD SERVICE LICENSE INFORMATION

District Health Department No. 2 (DHD2) would like remind all area citizens of Michigan's temporary food service license requirements. An event that serves food to the public may require a license as a temporary food service establishment. Michigan's Food Law, Act 92, P.A. 2000 requires a food service license when food or beverage is served or prepared for carry out, immediate consumption or consumption on the premises.

If a food event is held in a facility that already has an annual license from the health department, then the person may operate under that fixed license if the licensee or license holder so allows. Some facilities such as township halls, church halls, or parks may or may not have a license so it is important to check the status of the location or facility that you are planning to use for your event.

A temporary food service license application can be obtained from the health department in the county where the event will take place or from our web site at: [www.dhd2.org](http://www.dhd2.org). Applications must be completed and a fee will be charged with the amount depending on the person or type of organization applying for the license. An application for a license is to be submitted at least five (5) business days prior to the event. A late fee will be charged for applications submitted less than five (5) business days prior to the event. Persons operating without a license will be assessed a late fee in addition to the temporary food license fee if a license is deemed necessary. Nonprofit organizations may qualify for a reduced fee, provided they can supply proof of tax exempt status, such as a copy of a 501c3, a federal tax exempt number, or equivalent.

Once a temporary food license application has been completed and submitted to the health department with the appropriate fee, a set of guidelines for operating a temporary food service establishment is given to each applicant. To further assist the applicant, a Temporary Food Vendor Training Video can be viewed on the DHD2 web site. This video contains valuable food safety information crucial to a safe food operation. The health department will then visit and inspect the site prior to the start of the operation. If all applicable standards are met, the health department sanitarian will sign the license authorizing the preparation and serving of food to the public. A temporary food service license can be valid for up to fourteen (14) consecutive days at one location.

One of the primary responsibilities of the health department is to ensure the safety of food being served to the public. Food service inspections concentrate on providing safe food and the utilization of sanitary practices in food preparation. Food sanitation is crucial to the public's health. Each year many people become ill, some critically, as the result of unsafe foods or foods prepared improperly.

Examples of events that will require a temporary food service license include: food booths at festivals, craft shows, rallies, or sporting events; and fund raisers for persons,

organizations or political offices. A food service license is required even if the organization is nonprofit and the food is provided free of charge.

Michigan's Food Law does provide a few exceptions to the requirements for licensing of food service events, such as: home prepared foods (potlucks-with no preparation on site) served by a non-profit organization as a part of a meeting or fund raising event; and under certain circumstances, facilities already licensed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

If you or your organization are planning an event where food is to be served or prepared for public consumption, please contact the District Health Department No. 2 office nearest you to determine if Michigan law requires a food service license: Alcona County 989-724-6757, Iosco County 989-362-6183, Ogemaw County 989-345-5020, or Oscoda County 989-826-3970.

-end-