


Will County Health Department's Food Service Newsletter

November 2011

On September 15, 2011 the Will County Board approved the amendments to the *Will County Health Department Food Service and Retail Food Store Sanitation Ordinance* after a Public Hearing held on September 8, 2011. The approved amendments took effect on October 1, 2011. Some of these changes include: formerly exempt facilities will now pay 50% of the applicable permit fees, a new enforcement policy and process, and changes to temporary event permits. This newsletter will highlight those changes and how they may affect your facility.

ENFORCEMENT POLICY CHANGES

Due to risks of foodborne illness, an amended enforcement policy has been incorporated into the amended food ordinance. This policy is an effort to eliminate those conditions in food establishments that contribute to foodborne illness. The following changes have been made to the enforcement policy:

 When the rating score of an establishment is less than sixty (60), the permit to operate will be suspended by the Health Authority. The suspension will remain in effect until the rating score has been improved to at least eighty (80).

When the rating score of an establishment is less than seventy (70), immediate corrective action on identified violations will be required within 24 hours.

Remaining effective in the Enforcement Policy:

- The Health Authority may suspend any permit to operate if the holder of the permit does not comply with the requirements of the food ordinance.
- If an imminent health hazard exists (ie: lack of power, sewage backup, no hot water, etc), the establishment will cease operating immediately and not resume until authorized by the Health Authority.

Any violations of 4- or 5- point weighted items shall be corrected as soon as possible or by the date specified by the Health Authority. These changes are in effort to encourage facilities to comply with State and Local codes and achieve high sanitation standards.

NEW ENFORCEMENT PROCESS

The Will County Health Department has instated a new hearing process due to non-compliance and the high volume of re-inspections. The Health Authority may require the owner/operator or manager of a facility to attend a hearing.

Conditions requiring a hearing include, but are not limited to:

1. The permit to operate was suspended
2. The facility failed to correct violations by the specified re-inspection date

When a hearing is required, the owner/operator or manager will be served a Notice of Hearing and a hearing fee of \$100 must be paid on the hearing date. Failure to attend a hearing is subject to being served a second notice and an additional hearing fee.

It is the desire of the Health Authority to achieve facility compliance rather than serve hearing notices.



PAY ONLINE!!

The Will County Health Department Environmental Health now accepts credit cards!

You can pay online or in the office with your credit or debit card.

Visit www.govpaynow.com 24/7 to pay with your credit or debit card

or call 1-888-604-7888

You need to use Pay Location Code (PLC) #7078

Internet service fee 3.5%, Phone service fee 5%, Gov\$wipe/In-person fee 3.5%



2012 FOOD COURSE SCHEDULE

15 HOUR FOOD SERVICE MANAGERS SANITATION COURSE

Enrollment Fee of \$185.00 includes books and state approved exam

February 7, 9, 14 & 16

April 17, 19, 24 & 26

June 12, 14, 19 & 21

August 7, 9, 14 & 16

October 16, 18, 23 & 25

Dec. 4, 6, 11 & 13

All classes 9 am to 3:30 pm

Exam given on last day of class.

REFRESHER COURSE SCHEDULE

Enrollment Fee \$50.00

Jan 19th 9 am - 3:30 pm

March 15th 9 am - 3:30 pm

May 15th 9 am - 3:30 pm

Sept. 20th 9 am - 3:30 pm

Nov. 6th 9 am - 3:30pm

RENEWAL & RETAKE

TEST DATES

Renewal or Retake Exams \$15

January 25th July 25th

February 29th August 29th

March 28th September 26th

April 25th October 31st

May 30th November 28th

June 27th December 26th

Call to schedule your class or exam.

Reminders:

2012 Permit fees are due on or before December 31, 2011. A 25% penalty fee **WILL automatically be added on to the permit fee for your establishment on January 1, 2012. Payments received on or after 1/1/2012 MUST include penalties.**

Continue to post in public view your existing WCHD Food Permit. A new WCHD Permit will not be printed every year .



New Levels & Fees for Temporary Event Permits



- ◆ **Low Risk** permit allows vendors to sell prepackaged/ non-potentially hazardous foods. Examples are popcorn, nuts, and frozen novelties.
- ◆ **Medium risk** allows vendors to do cooking with limited preparation, such as burgers, pizza, or cut produce.
- ◆ **High risk** permit allows smoking or roasting of meats and requires a HACCP plan. Also any cooled/reheated foods.

Before submitting your application for a Temporary Food Permit, please look over the new application and chart to determine which permit your menu will require or contact your inspector to discuss your permit.

FACTS TO KNOW BEFORE YOUR EVENT

Please review The Will County Health Department Temporary Food and/or Drink Service Establishments Tech. Release No. 4.0 before each event for all requirements. Some important items to remember are:

- ◆ Hand washing station is required, sanitizer wipes or lotions are not acceptable
- ◆ Gloves or barrier protection for food handling
- ◆ Hair restraints such as hat, visor or hair nets
- ◆ Dial Stem thermometer (0°-220°)
- ◆ Sanitizer and proper test kits
- ◆ Ground cover must be provided if event is on grass or gravel
- ◆ Pest Control (fans/screens)
- ◆ Mechanical refrigeration

Permit Category & Description	Examples of Food (not limited to)	Permit Fee per event
LOW RISK - Prepackaged/ Non-Potentially Hazardous Food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepackaged non-potentially hazardous foods • Popcorn/kettle corn • Cotton candy • Peanuts/nuts • Frozen novelties (non-potentially hazardous) • Prepared non-potentially hazardous drinks (ex: lemon shake-ups, frozen drinks) 	\$45
MEDIUM RISK - Cooking with Limited Preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamburgers • Hot Dogs • Bratwurst and Sausage • Pizza • Meats/sandwiches • Chicken and poultry • Fried Foods • Cut fruit/sliced cheese 	\$65
HIGH RISK - Smoking/Pig Roast (Long term cooking/ holding) or cooling/ reheating food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pig Roast • Ribs • BBQ Beef/Pork/etc. • Smoked meats • Cooled/Reheated Foods 	\$100



3RD PARTY FOOD SERVICE OPERATORS

When a facility allows a 3rd party operator (any individual, partnership, company, group, association, or, public or private entity) to use their facility for a foodservice event, that 3rd party operator must:

- Apply for a permit to operate
- Pay any and all applicable fees
- Receive an inspection by the Health Authority prior to operating

A facility's permit is NOT TRANSFERABLE to any other foodservice operator. Operating without a permit is in direct violation of The Will County Food Service and Retail Food Store Ordinance. Each day of operating without a permit constitutes a separate violation and is subject to a maximum fine of \$500 per day through the Will County State's Attorney.

Please inform any 3rd party operators using your facilities of the Will County requirements.

Facilities Formerly Exempt from all Food Related Fees

Facilities formerly exempt from all food related fees, governmental agencies, schools that operate their own kitchens, and churches will now be required to pay 50% of any applicable food fees, including annual permit fees, temporary event fees and plan review fees. The discounted food service permit fee is based on the number of seats or the number of students attending a school. The 50% discount does not apply to late fees or hearing fees both of which are addressed in the newsletter. Non-profit organizations will also now be required to pay 50% of temporary permit fees.

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