



**BAY COUNTY
Health Department**

Environmental Health Division
1212 Washington Avenue - Bay City, MI 48708
Voice (989) 895-4006 Fax (989) 895-4014

Food For Thought **Spring 2011**

DON'T BE LATE!

FOOD SERVICE APPLICATIONS AND FEES ARE DUE BY APRIL 30!

Food service applications and corresponding fees are due to the Environmental Health Division before 5:00 pm, April 30. To avoid being charged a late fee, mail your license application and fee at least one week prior to the deadline or personally deliver the materials to the Health Department, at 1200 Washington Avenue in Bay City. Food Service license applications and fees received after May 1 through May 31, will be subject to a late fee equal to 50% of the original BCHD fee. Applications and fees received after May 31 are subject to a late fee of 100% of the original BCHD fee.

Please review Mailing Address and Section 3. Fill in Section 6 and return with appropriate fee.



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MDA warns Food Establishments of Phony Inspector

Fake food inspectors threatening fines, enforcement actions.

Lansing—The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and local health departments are warning the state's 56,000 food establishments about a scam involving fake food inspectors who are currently making the rounds in Michigan. MDA, local health departments, and other agencies across the United States are reporting that restaurants are receiving calls from individuals claiming to be from a health department and requesting to schedule an inspection at the establishment, as well as requesting sensitive information.

"State and local food inspections are typically unannounced to ensure proper food safety measurers are always being adhered to and it's rare an inspector would schedule a visit in advance. Additionally, we never ask for sensitive, confidential financial information from an owner," said Keith Creagh, MDA Director. "It is completely unacceptable for imposters to threaten or attempt to intimidate Michigan's food establishments and we will be working with law enforcement officials to address it." Here are some quick tips so you don't fall victim to this scam.

* Ask for identification if someone stops by or calls claiming to be from the local health department, MDA, or federal food agencies that you don't know.

* If the individual cannot provide proper identification, do not allow the person access to your facility. Contact your food regulatory agency immediately and report it.

* Never provide sensitive or confidential information over the phone, such as a social security number. State and local food inspectors never ask for that information.

Please contact your food regulatory agency of MDA. MDA can be reached at 800-292-3939.

Visit our Web site:

www.baycounty-mi.gov/health

**Environmental
Health**

Michigan Statewide Smoke-Free Air Law

On May 1, 2010 Michigan became smoke-free. The law provides for smoke-free air in public places including bars, restaurants, and hotels. Under the law, smoking is not allowed on patios and decks where services (serving food and beverages) are intended and is also prohibited in enclosed areas of hotels, motels, and inns (including rooms). Compliance with the law is the responsibility of the owner, manager, or other person in charge. Local Health Departments (LHD) are responsible for the enforcement of the smoke-free law. The owner/manager must inform each employee regarding their responsibility of ensuring compliance with the smoke-free law. Fines may be issued if an establishment is found to be allowing persons to smoke within smoke-free areas. If you have questions regarding where persons are allowed to smoke on your premises; please feel free to call the Bay County Health Department - Environmental Health Division at 989-895-4006. Information and resources related to Michigan's Smoke-Free Air Law can be found at www.michigan.gov/smokefreelaw.

FAQ's for Food service establishments regarding the smoke-free law:

What to do if someone is smoking:

- * The owner, manager, or person in charge is required to ask them to stop
- * If they don't stop, they can then be denied service and ask to leave
- * If they still don't stop, follow protocol for dealing with disruptive customers or clients

What can happen if an establishment is allowing smoking?

- * The local health department will investigate
- * If smoking persists, the LHD can take further action that could lead to fines and shut down of that establishment
- * You could lose your liquor license and gambling license

What does the smoke-free law cover?

- * All Food Service Establishments, including bars
- * Outdoor areas of restaurants and bars where food and beverage may be served and /or consumed
- * This includes patios of bars and restaurants

NEW: The Michigan Restaurant Association and Michigan Department of Agriculture have joined together to offer a wide variety of Food Safety information. Go to www.michigansafety.com. This website has information on:

- * Videos * Posters * New employee training
- * Monitoring charts * MDA Grant Projects links
- * ServeSafe information * Food safety guidelines

NOROVIRUS - One of the big five:

- * Transmitted by infected food handlers or touching contaminated objects and eating without proper hand washing.
- * Known as "stomach flu"
- * Can be contagious two weeks after recovery
- * Highly contagious
- * Hand washing is best defense
- * Symptoms—nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cramps

Environmental Health Division office hours:

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.— (Closed for lunch 12:00p.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed on Major Holidays

MANDATORY SERVSAFE FOOD SAFETY TRAINING..

MICHIGAN FOOD LAW REQUIREMENT: Certificate must be available at time of inspection.

Establishments must have a manager or Person-in-Charge (PIC) certified by June 30, 2009. The certification is renewable every five years. Check your expiration date! The ServSafe Class meets the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Local Public Health Departments rules, as described in the Michigan Food Law of 2000, for demonstration of knowledge within a food service establishment.

Training Fees: Not-for-profit organization fees are \$120.00 per person. All for-profit organizations are \$150.00 per person. If you have questions about our next food safety class, please contact us at (989) 895-4006 #3.