

MCHD HEALTH BLOG

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Public Health
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MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.



TEMPORARY FOOD LICENSES

With the Morgan County Fair quickly approaching, many people may be curious about how to get a temporary food license if they'd like to sell food at the fair. In fact, this type of license is required for any food service operation that operates at an event and serves and/or prepares food for a charge or suggested donation amount. These events are typically fairs, auctions, fundraisers and festivals.

A food safety specialist from the Health Department performs an inspection of a temporary stand the first day of the event to ensure all requirements are met. The inspector looks to see if the food is being prepared from a licensed food service operation or if it is being prepared at the temporary food service location. Food workers must be healthy and not showing signs of illness or disease, such as diarrhea, nausea, fever, sore throat, or vomiting. Their hair must be restrained by hats, hair nets, or visors.

The area is then examined to make sure food preparation is taking place on a smooth, cleanable surface with clean utensils. A calibrated food thermometer is required to be onsite to ensure proper holding and cooking temperatures. Gloves, clean utensils, deli tissue, spatulas, and tongs may be used to handle ready-to-eat foods. Bare hand contact with ready-to-eat foods is prohibited. No eating or smoking is permitted within the temporary space.

Upon successful completion of the inspection a temporary food service license is issued. This license should be displayed in plain view of customers. Further information on all types of food licensing can be found on our webpage at www.morganpublichealth.org/food-safety/ or by contacting our office at 740-962-4572.