

Austin FoodWise Quarterly

Food Safety 24/7...

Environmental Health Services Division



Spring 2014

We offer monthly Food Safety Presentations: 3-4:30 pm @ 1520 Rutherford Ln, Bldg. 1, Ste. 200

*Register by phone @ (512) 978-0300 or via e-mail: EHSD.service@austintexas.gov

Date	Topic
April 15, 2014	Requirements for starting a food enterprise and the inspection process
May 20, 2014	Temporary events and mobile vendor inspections
June 17, 2014	Requirements and processes for submitting a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan

RULES FOR FOOD DONATIONS



- ◆ **Pre-packaged foods:** that are **non-potentially hazardous** (cans of soup, boxes of cereal, bottled water) may be collected for donation and distributed without a permit. Some restrictions also apply for expired or damaged foods.
- ◆ **Potentially Hazardous Foods:** Other foods are considered *Potentially Hazardous* due to health considerations. The donation of these foods must meet certain criteria, and for donations within Travis County, they require a permit application from the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department.
- ◆ **Labeling:** Donated foods must be labeled to include: name of the item/food, date the food was prepared manufacturer information, list of ingredients.

Foods that may NOT be donated:

- ◆ **Damaged:** Canned foods that are heavily dented; packaged foods without a complete source/manufacturer label.
- ◆ **Distressed:** Foods exposed to fire, flooding, excessive heat, smoke, other environmental contamination, etc.
- ◆ **Previous Service:** Foods that have been previously served to a consumer.
- ◆ **Home Prepared:** No home prepared potentially hazardous foods can be donated for human consumption.
- ◆ **Shelf Life:** Foods that are potentially hazardous must not be used past the shelf life expiration date.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE RULES FOR FOOD DONATIONS AND WHAT FOODS CANNOT BE DONATED, PLEASE CALL (512) 978-0300.

REMINDER: Animals are Prohibited in Food Establishments.

Except for service animals that are controlled by the disabled employee or person, or service animals in training when accompanied by an approved trainer.



Dogs are permitted in outdoor dining areas with specifications. For a list of specifications please visit:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/public-health-regulations>:

[Dogs Permitted in Outdoor Dining Areas, City of Austin, Food Code, 10-3-124](#)

The City of Austin health inspectors make every attempt to educate during inspections. There are times however, when questions arise after the inspector is gone. The Environmental Health Services Division offers a complaint/request phone line that is staffed by a health inspector during business hours. Call for clarification on food safety rules and regulations.

If you feel an inspection issue, complaint investigation or surveillance finding has not been satisfactorily addressed please do not hesitate to contact the Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD). You may request a second opinion about your concerns *directly* from a Supervisor or Manager. Our office phone number is (512) 978-0300 and we may be reached between the hours of 7:45 AM to 4:45 PM, Monday thru Friday.

Mailing address: EHSD, PO BOX 142529, Austin, TX 78714 Phone: (512) 978-0300, Fax: (512) 978-0322

Lobby hours @ RLC - 1520 Rutherford Lane 7:45 am — 4:30 pm / Monday - Friday

Walk-in hours for Health Dept. customers @ One-Stop Shop at 505 Barton Springs Rd: 8:00 am – 12 Noon / Monday - Friday

For more information visit: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/food-establishment-requirements>