

# Food Safety



Pike County Health Department  
Home Health & Hospice

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## What are Food Permits and how are they helping to keep you safe?

Anyone wanting to sell food to the public in Pike County is required to apply for a food permit at the Health Department. This includes restaurants, food trucks, grocery stores, farmers markets, or any other food sold for a profit.

### How do permits help keep you safe?

According to the CDC approximately 48 million people get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die from foodborne diseases each year in the United States. A food permit in Pike County comes with inspections for safe and sanitary conditions by the Environmental Inspector, using the Missouri State Food Code. This code lists the rules and regulations to help prevent foodborne illness. The Missouri food Code can be found at: <https://health.mo.gov/safety/foodsafety/pdf/missourifoodcode.pdf>

The inspector is also responsible for checking that food is safe after an emergency, such as a fire, flood, sewage backup, loss of water, power outages that last more than four hours, or any other condition that could lead to an imminent health hazard. Food permit holders are responsible for contacting the Health Department in the event of an emergency and halt food sales. The inspector will verify food safety before the permit holder can resume selling food.

### Is there a charge for the permit?

A yearly permit is \$100. A temporary food stand permit is \$10 and for a seasonal food stand permit is \$25. There are a few exceptions. If you are serving non-potentially hazardous foods (usually foods that do not need refrigeration or to be kept hot for safety) or if your organization is not-for-profit, then the food permit fee is waived. A permit is still required, and you may have an inspection.

### Is there anyone who isn't required to apply for a permit?

Bake sales do not need a permit, as long as only non-potentially hazardous foods are for sale. Generally, a food is considered potentially hazardous if it needs to be refrigerated or kept hot for safety. Cakes, cookies, fruit pies and rolls are examples of non-potentially hazardous foods. All the items at the bake sale should be individually wrapped with a label stating the ingredients and the bakers initials. Or an ingredient card visible to customers. Find printable labels, signs and more resources at our website [www.pikecountyhealth.org](http://www.pikecountyhealth.org). Nonprofit organizations do not need a permit for their fundraisers. They are required to display a sign stating:  
"This food was prepared in a kitchen that is not subject to regulation and inspection by the Pike County Health Department.

The Health Department has brochures with guidelines and other useful resources for bake sales, farmers markets, and temporary food stands available online and in office. There may be other exceptions that are not listed, if you have any questions about food permits or food safety, contact Stefanie Davis, Environmentalist at the Pike County Health Department. Call 573-324-2111 ext. 113 or email [sdavis@pikecountyhealth.org](mailto:sdavis@pikecountyhealth.org).