



BRAZOS COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

A City-County Public Health District

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www.brazoshealth.org

November 1, 2021

Dear Permit Holder:

It is time to renew your food service permit for 2022. Our hope is to make renewing your permit as easy as possible. We have outlined a few steps which we believe will make the process easier. Please read these steps **carefully**. You will be held responsible for all information in this letter.

1. We have sent you a completed application(s). The application should have the basic information that we have on file for your establishment. If any of the information is incorrect, please write in the correct information and we will make the changes. We must have a good contact phone number and e-mail.
 - **YOU MUST SEND THE APPLICATION BACK IN WITH YOUR PAYMENT.**
 - Make sure the address on your application is where the permit and all future correspondence should be sent.
 - You will not be allowed to renew your permit if you have outstanding unpaid re-inspection or other fees owed to the Brazos County Health District.
2. In 2022, we will continue a tiered fee schedule for the retail food establishments that are located in Bryan and College Station (the fee schedule can be found on our website). The tiers are based on the risk assessment of your establishment and the number of food-handler employees that work at the establishment.
 - A Low Risk establishment (Risk 1) includes establishments that receive, store, have limited preparation, cold hold, and serve only pre-packaged or non-*TCS foods. These establishments require a minimum of one inspection per year.
 - A Medium Risk establishment (Risk 2) includes establishments that receive, store, prepare, cook, cool, reheat, cold/hot hold, and serve TCS foods. These establishments must also have a good compliance history (average of last 3 inspections = 90 or above with no closures) and require a minimum of two inspections per year.
 - A High Risk establishment (Risk 3) includes establishments that receive, store, prepare, cook, cool, reheat, cold/hot hold, and serve TCS foods. These establishments either have a limited compliance history or do not have a good compliance history (average of last 3 inspections = 90 or above with no closures) and require a minimum of three inspections per year.

The fee is **\$250.00** for Brazos County establishments that are not in Bryan or College Station city limits. For other specific fees, please go to www.brazoshealth.org.

3. Please return your application and fee before **January 1, 2022**. Applications for permits **postmarked** or **received** after **January 7, 2022**, will have a 20% late charge added to the permit fee. **Remember:** If you have an inspection after January 1, 2022 and your new permit is not posted, you will lose 1 point (#47) for not having the current permit, regardless of payment status! If applications and fees are not received by 5:00 p.m. **January 14, 2022**, your retail food operation will be suspended. Suspension notification will begin on **January 18, 2022**.
4. **PLEASE NOTE:** The hours for purchasing permits at the Brazos County Health District are:
 - Monday through Thursday – 8:00am to 4:00pm
 - Friday – 8:00am to 12:00pm
5. New TFER guidance documents (bodily fluid clean-up procedure, employee sickness reporting, etc.) are available on our website or at BCHD.
6. The State of Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has adopted by reference the current U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Code along with the Texas Food Establishment Rules (TFER) effective August 8, 2021 (see links on our webpage).
 - A major change in the new rules directly affecting establishments in Brazos County relates to locations that prepare or handle exposed *TCS foods. **These establishments will need to have a Certified Food Protection Manager on site during all hours of operation.** There will be additional communication during routine inspections with establishments beginning January 2022 and the Brazos County Health District will transition to this new requirement in July 2022. We recognize this is a big change for many establishments and encourage you to begin making plans to get additional personnel trained and certified at your location.

Should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions about your permit, please call me or any of the inspectors at (979) 361-4450.

Sincerely,

Bob Lamkin
Environmental Health Manager

*TCS - Time/temperature Control for Safety (TCS) food - (formerly Potentially Hazardous Food (PHF)) is defined as a food that requires time/temperature control for safety to limit pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation. Examples include: an animal food that is raw or heat-treated; a plant food that is heat-treated or consists of raw seed sprouts, cut melons, cut leafy greens, cut tomatoes or mixture of cut tomatoes that are not modified in a way so that they are unable to support pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation, or garlic-in-oil mixtures that are not modified in a way so that they are unable to support pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation.