

Brazos County Health Department

A City-County Public Health District



News Release

October 19, 2011

For Immediate Release

Updated Food Establishment Ordinances

On Tuesday, October 25 (City of Bryan and Brazos County) and Thursday, October 27 (City of College Station) the City Councils and County Commissioners will consider updates to the food establishment ordinances and a new food establishment order, respectively.

The County has never had a food establishment order, and County food inspections are currently being done under the requirements of the Texas Food Establishment Rules (TFER). This order will put the County and both Cities on a level playing field. Under the new order, County food establishments (not in Bryan or College Station) will be required:

- 1) To have one employee with a Food Protection Manager Certification and food handler cards for all food service employees.
- 2) To pay a re-inspection fee of \$500.00 if the same violation is recorded on three consecutive inspections, and
- 3) To pay same re-inspection fee and to follow the closure policy set for the Cities upon permit suspension.

While both Cities are inspected by the Brazos County Health Department (BCHD), they currently have differing food establishment Ordinances.

For all three entities, outdated policies are removed, and current Board of Health policies are added, including:

- 1) Requirement of posting of the most current scored inspection.
- 2) Updates the correction of violations policy.
- 3) Food Protection Manager **registration** (with BCHD) is removed, and
- 4) Changes permit renewal dates from February 1 to January 7.

The new Ordinances/Order will meet FDA requirements for National Standardization, designed to promote uniformity of rules, inspections and the prevention of food-borne illness. Inspection frequency will be based on risk factors and compliance history. A procedure for conducting hearings will be outlined, as well as other language changes to reflect the intent of the FDA Food Code.

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