Food and Beverage Safety

AUTHORITY

Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) is responsible for enforcing food and beverage safety regulations at WSU facilities in Whitman County to prevent foodborne illnesses. (WAC 246-215)

The Whitman County Health Department (WCHD) is responsible for enforcing food and beverage safety on non-WSU properties in Whitman County.

In other counties in Washington, the local health department is responsible for food and beverage safety regulations. (WAC 246-215)

REPORTING CONCERNS/COMPLAINTS/SUSPECTED FOODBORNE ILLNESS

In Whitman County

Promptly report concerns, complaints, or suspected illnesses about a food product or food establishment to EH&S for assistance and investigation.

During Regular Working Hours

Contact EH&S; telephone 509-335-3041.

Outside of Whitman County, contact the local health department.

During Off-Hours

Contact the Facilities Services, Operations dispatcher; telephone 509-335-9000.

Outside of Whitman County

Contact the local county or district health department.

PERMITS, EXEMPTIONS, AND VARIANCES

In order to serve food and beverages for public events at WSU facilities, food service permits, exemptions from permit, or variances may be required. Such requirements are in effect regardless of whether or not there is a fee for the food or beverages.

In Whitman County

Environmental Health and Safety issues temporary food service permits, exemptions from permit, and variances to WSU entities that serve food or beverages at WSU facilities in Whitman County.

Non-WSU entities that serve food and beverages at WSU facilities are required to obtain the appropriate permits from the WCHD.

Outside of Whitman County

Outside Whitman County, contact the local health department for food service permits, exemptions from permit, or variances.
Food and Beverage Safety

Types of Permits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temporary Permits</th>
<th>Temporary food service permits are required for temporary establishments operating at fixed locations with fixed menus for not more than:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Twenty-one consecutive days in conjunction with single events, or</td>
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<td>• Three days in a week in conjunction with recurring events.</td>
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| Annual Permits | Annual permits are required for permanent establishments. |

| Catering/Mobile | Catering/mobile permits are required for establishments that operate at various WSU locations throughout the year. |

Exemptions From Permit

In order to serve certain foods (e.g., popcorn, roasted nuts), an Application for Exemption from Permit is required, rather than a permit. Contact EH&S, the local health department, or see WAC 246-215-191 (subpart 8-301.12 of the Food Code) for more information.

Variances

Environmental Health and Safety and/or local health departments may issue variances from permit requirements when no health hazard will result from the variance.

FOOD WORKER CARDS AND EXAMINATIONS

Requirements

The state of Washington Department of Health requires all food workers to obtain a Washington State Food and Beverage Service Worker's Permit (Food Worker Card) within 14 days of employment (see below).

Availability

Food Worker Cards are available from the WCHD, as well as from all county health departments in the state.

Classes (Whitman County)

For information regarding taking classes and exams online or for dates and locations of food worker classes and examinations contact the WCHD; telephone 509-332-6752 (Pullman) or 509-397-6280 (Colfax).

Permanent or Catering/Mobile Establishments

All food service workers in permanent or catering/mobile establishments must have a current Food Worker Card.
Food and Beverage Safety

Temporary Establishments
For temporary establishments, refer to the EH&S website for Food Worker Card requirements:

ehs.wsu.edu/

ROLE OF EH&S
Environmental Health and Safety has developed food safety policies and enforcement procedures for all WSU facilities.

In Whitman County
Environmental Health and Safety performs the following services:

• Issues temporary food service permits, exemptions from permit, and waivers to WSU groups on WSU properties in Whitman County.

• Assists departments with obtaining annual and mobile/catering permits from the WCHD.

• Conducts routine inspections of food service establishments at WSU facilities in Whitman County.

• Conducts investigations of complaints and suspected foodborne illnesses at WSU facilities in Whitman County.

• Provides training and consultation as needed.

• Reviews plans and specifications for new and remodeled facilities at WSU facilities in Whitman County.

• Notifies WSU establishments of new regulations, food recalls, and other pertinent information.

Temporary Permit and Exemption Applications, and Variances
Contact EH&S for assistance with temporary food service establishment permits, exemption from permit application forms, and variance requirements; telephone 509-335-3041.

Submit temporary permit and exemption from permit applications to EH&S no later than 14 days prior to the event, otherwise food may not be served at the event per WAC regulations.

Outside Whitman County
Outside of Whitman County, contact the local health department for food service permits, exemptions from permit, or variances.