

WHEN DO YOU NEED A FOOD SERVICE OR RETAIL FOOD EST. LICENSE TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD?

License Requirements

If money is received including:

1. Money is taken in exchange for the food.
2. Donations are presented for consideration.
3. Admission is charged and food provided.

AND

The food is one or more of the following:

1. The food is perishable (has to be kept hot or cold for safety).
2. The food is sold unpackaged.
3. The food is packaged onsite.
4. There is more than 200 cubic foot of food display.

Then

You must purchase a license for the operation (unless you fall under a specific exemption).

Common exemptions are listed below. Temporary licenses are available from the local Health Department with jurisdiction. Check with your local Health Department if in any doubt regarding the requirements for licensure.

Examples of perishable (potentially hazardous) foods include:

Meats, sandwiches, deli meats, deli salads, eggs, milk, cream, dairy creamer, ice cream, butter, cheese, cider, cooked vegetables, cooked pasta, cookie dough, cheesecake, pumpkin pies, custard pies, cream pies, cut tomatoes, cut melons, garlic in oil, salsa, anything with a perishable ingredient, etc.

Notable exemptions:

1. The food being sold is defined as a cottage food as outlined by Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and is properly packaged and labeled.
 2. The foods sold are pre-packaged, not perishable, and are contained in displays totaling less than 200 cubic feet.
 3. A person at a farmers market (registered with ODA) selling only fresh unprocessed fruits or vegetables and/or maple syrup, sorghum, or honey that is produced per Section 3715.021 division (A) of the Ohio Revised Code
 4. An establishment that sells only fountain beverages that are not perishable.
 5. A stand operated on the premises of a private home by one or more children under the age of twelve selling non-perishable food.
 6. A church, school, fraternal or veterans' organization, volunteer fire organization, or volunteer emergency medical service organization preparing or serving food intended for individual portion service *on its premises* for not more than seven consecutive days or not more than fifty-two separate days during a licensing period.
 7. A facility that is exempt from licensure according to Sections 3717.22 and 3717.42 of the Ohio Revised Code.
-

Contact the Greene County Combined Health District at 1-937-374-5600 if you have any questions.