

Environmental Health Services Division

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www.kingcounty.gov/health



Date:

Dear Owner/Operator:

In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of everyone, Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHSKC) has developed an alternative method of conducting inspections by offering a **Virtual Food Safety Assessment**, with food safety as our priority and the common goal of reducing the risk of foodborne illness.

Virtual Food Safety Assessments will be conducted by:

- A variety of video conferencing applications including, but not limited to, Google Duo, Zoom, Apple FaceTime, or Skype for Business.
- Scheduling an appointment ahead of time via phone call or email. Every attempt will be made to schedule the inspection during non-busy hours of operation.
- Counting the inspection as a Virtual Food Safety Assessment, which will not affect your Food Safety Rating.
- Focusing on foodborne illness risk factors, such as taking internal temperatures of cold/hot held foods and final cook temperatures, reheating and hand washing etc., based on your food service establishment's past inspection history. You will need food thermometer to demonstrate temperature readings.
- Following a 'Checklist of Example Items' emailed ahead of time by your Investigator, who will address the items for observation during the virtual inspection. The virtual visit will also include emphasis on cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting, to prevent spread of COVID-19 on all food and non-food contact surfaces, especially frequent, high touch surfaces.
- Ensuring every effort will be made to work with you to take appropriate corrective action and alleviate the risk, should an observation be made of food safety practice or process that poses a public health risk during the virtual visit.
- Providing a brief summary at the end of the virtual visit to discuss important findings that will assist you in enhancing your safe food handling practices and to answer any further questions.
- Emailing a final report of your virtual visit to you with any helpful handouts related to COVID-19. Handouts in other languages are also available upon request. Based on investigator availability, we may also be able to accommodate conducting this virtual visit in another language. Please contact us for details.

We thank you for your partnership and flexibility in ensuring safe food is served to our King County residents, as well as practicing social distancing during these unprecedented times of COVID-19.

If you have questions regarding the virtual food safety assessment, please contact _____, Health and Environmental Investigator, at (206) _____ setting up this appointment.

Public Health-Seattle & King County

Downtown Seattle Office
(206) 263-9566

Eastgate/Bellevue Office
(206) 477-8050

Link/share our site at: www.kingcounty.gov/foodsafety