



COWLITZ COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

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THE LOADED TABLE

January 2021

Food Code Revision Status News

Washington State Board of Health adopted proposed changes to chapter 246-215 WAC, Food Service, on October 13, 2020. The adopted revisions incorporate the 2017 U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Code with Washington modifications that address legislative changes and food safety issues raised by stakeholders.

Based on stakeholder input, the food service rule becomes effective with a staggered timeline. The changes that have taken effect in 2021 are either minor changes or updates to match legislative changes.

Effective January 15, 2021: Rule sections addressing legislative changes:

WAC Section	Updates made
01115	Definitions updated (including exempting children's lemonade stands and certain 1 or 2 bedroom B&B's)
03235	Receiving Temperature of freshly-made rice noodles
06570	Pet Dogs allowed inside certain food establishments with very limited food service such as breweries with generally no other food
09100-09160	Changes to Mobile Food Units Requirements
	- Secondary Permitting Requirements w/o plan review for other counties
	- When Mobile Food Units are exempt from commissary
	- Other Mobile Food Updates

All other changes won't be effective until at least March 2022. We will send out more details and training information later as the new rule deadline approaches.
<https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/1201/Food-Industry-Resources>

COVID-19 Updates

We would like to verify that everyone is getting our COVID-19 updates by email. If you have not received our emails, you can call our staff to get your information updated for future information notifications.

As of printing the state is doing a 2 phase approach and every Friday the State Department of Health reviews the stats of each region to determine if that region can move to the next phase. Reports and phases are posted at the below webpage:

<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/roadmap-recovery-metrics>

There are 4 criteria's to be meet:

1. 14 day of cases per 100,000 population decrease by >10%
2. 14 day of hospital admissions per 100,000 population decrease by >10%
3. 7 day % of ICU bed occupancy <90%
4. 7 day % of positive tests <10%

Cowlitz County Specific data and information can be found at this website

<https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/2660/Novel-Coronavirus-COVID-19>

Program Contact Info

Environmental Health Services

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Food Program Staff

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Jesse Smith.....x6442
Ruby Stilson.....x6443
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3rd Party Delivery Companies

Due to the restrictions on food establishments, several 3rd party delivery companies have become available in our area.

While this is a potential resource to use please remember the drivers are not employees of the facility nor are they the customer.

It has come to our attention that these drivers have been asked to fill drinks. Drivers are only allowed to handle packaged processed food as they are not food handlers. Drinks are required to be filled by an employee of the food establishment when using a third party delivery company.

Remember, the driver is **not** a food employee and does not have a Washington State Food Worker Card.