



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
OFFICE of ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH and SAFETY  
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February 11, 2022

**Re: Food Safety, Chapter 246-215 WAC**

Dear Food Safety Interested Parties:

The state retail food safety rule, Chapter 246-215 WAC, becomes effective March 1, 2022. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is requesting a statewide educational period from March 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022. This means if an inspector finds any of the new code provisions out of compliance before September 1, 2022, inspectors will not cite it as a violation. Instead, inspectors will provide education and technical assistance on the new rule requirements and request corrections be made. See the implementation explanatory document accompanying this letter for more details.

This educational period will help the retail food industry and regulators, as they continue to deal with challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As there are very few new provisions that require significant change for operators and many jurisdictions are still attempting to return to routine inspection practices, we believe education will effectively work to protect public health.

We encourage the retail food industry and regulators to use this educational period to continue informing all those impacted of the changes to the rule.

Please contact the DOH Food Safety Program with questions about this educational period at [food.safety@doh.wa.gov](mailto:food.safety@doh.wa.gov).

Respectfully,

Todd Phillips, R.S.  
Director, Office of Environmental Health & Safety

Enclosure

Cc: Washington State Board of Health