

Exhibitor Food Sampling Guidelines

Exhibitor Food Samples

Subject to Event Coordinator approval, those who manufacture, process, or distribute food in their normal course of business and wish to distribute food samples, may be allowed. This is provided food samples are no larger than bite-size and beverage sizes no larger than three ounces. All exhibitors should contact the Event Organizer prior to the event for approval of food distribution.

Any exhibitor not manufacturing, processing, or distributing food in their normal course of business who would like to distribute food items, must purchase these items from Aramark Food Services. Please contact Aramark at 253.830.6679 to make these arrangements or to purchase food and beverage from the exhibitor menu. An exhibitor distributing food samples may need to obtain a temporary food permit. See the next paragraph for details.

Temporary Food Service

The Pierce County Health Department may require those exhibitors distributing food samples to obtain a Temporary Food Service Permit. A temporary food service is a food establishment that operates at a fixed location for a period of time not more than twenty-one (21) consecutive days in conjunction with a single event or celebration, such as a: Fair, Carnival, Circus, Public Exhibition, Festival, Fundraiser, or similar transitory gathering. Temporary Food Service Permits can be obtained by contacting the Pierce County Health Department directly at 253.798.6460.

Who Needs a Temporary Food Service Permit?

Individuals or groups planning to hold events that are open to the public must obtain a permit. If you advertise your event with flyers, banners, newspaper articles, or by other means, it is considered a public event. Note: Church dinners or other events that are for members and their guests only and are not advertised are not considered to be public events.

Where is the Permit Application Located?

Current applications and additional forms may be obtained from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department or by calling 253.798.6460, Monday-Friday, 8am to 4:30pm.

When Should the Permit Application be returned?

The Health Department recommends the application be returned with the required fee a minimum of three (3) weeks before the event. This allows enough time for Health Department staff to adequately review the application and make any changes necessary well in advance of the event.

If the application is returned to the Health Department less than fourteen (14) days before the event, a late fee will be assessed in addition to the regular permit fee. You are urged to apply for a permit as early as possible. For more information call 253.798.6460. Refer to the Food & Beverage section of this document for more information. The selling of food or beverage is prohibited.