




Eastern Highlands Health District

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Memo

To: EHHD Farmers Market Masters and Food Vendors

From: Robert Miller, MPH, RS, Director of Health 

CC: EHHD Sanitarians

Date: May 3, 2023

Re: Changes to Farmers Market Food Vendor Licensing Requirements

State Adoption of the FDA Food Code

On February 17, 2023 the State of Connecticut adopted new food safety regulations. The new regulations replaces the old Ct Public Health Code with the FDA Food Code Regulations (Section 19a-36h). As a result of these changes in the State of Connecticut food safety regulations there is a **new food vendor category that is now required to obtain a Farmers Market Food Vendors License prior to providing food products at a Farmers Market**. This new food vendor general category includes vendors that provide:

- Food or beverage that must be temperature controlled for safety during storage or display because they are potentially hazardous (requires refrigeration or freezing). While not a complete list, a few examples of past vendors that did not require a license, but now do under this new regulation include a butcher selling raw meat or seafood, a vendor that sells commercially pre-packaged ice cream, a vendor that sells cheeses, or a vendor that sells cream or custard filled baked goods.

As always, vendors that conduct food preparation at the market, or offer ready to eat samples must continue to obtain a food license to serve food at the market.

Additional information regarding the FDA Food Code changes can be found on our website at <http://www.ehhd.org/fdacodes>

Itinerant Food Vendor Licensing Reciprocity

In addition to changes to the food safety regulations outlined above, the Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) recently executed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that establishes food licensing reciprocity for licensed Itinerant Food Vendors**, i.e. food trucks, and trailers. The execution of this MOU by the EHHD means food trucks that are already licensed by another **participating** local health department are not required to apply for, or pay for a food license with the EHHD. They are still, however, required to notify us ahead of their participation at the Farmers Market. Such notification can be made via our online permitting platform at <https://easternhighlandshealthdistrict.viewpointcloud.com/>. Furthermore, such vendors are still subject to a health inspection by the EHHD as part of the scheduled event. *This initiative only applies to self-contained mobile food trucks and trailers that obtain an annual operating license from another participating local health department.*

More information on this license reciprocity initiative can be found on the CT DPH website at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Food-Protection-Program/Itinerant-Food-Vendors>

We encourage market masters to pass on this information to all food vendors.

All questions regarding these changes to the Farmers Market Food Vendor Licensing Requirements can be directed to ehhd@ehhd.org or 860-429-3325.