



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Macon County Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Environmental Health Services: How the Health Department Serves *Everyone* in Macon County

DECATUR, IL – Our mission at the Macon County Health Department is to promote the health and healthy practices of all residents of Macon County. We are the local public health entity and the purpose of public health overall is to prevent illness and the spread of it.

Part of a healthy economy is supporting business owners and the growth of small, local businesses. We are very supportive of and committed to businesses and the growth of them in Macon County. However, there is a responsibility we have to our community residents and visitors. Our Environmental Health Services Division is responsible for preserving and improving the safety of food products; eliminating environmental hazards in the community; and more. We do this by providing public education programs and enforcing local and state ordinances.

We consistently apply ordinances in our community to those businesses and owners whom are preparing, selling, and serving food. They must obtain licenses when appropriate and meet a plethora of other requirements in order to maintain these licenses. Inspections are conducted on a regular basis, as regulated in the Macon County Food Sanitation Ordinance and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Food Service Sanitation Code. If a food establishment does not follow licensing rules, use appropriate equipment, and follow other related rules, the risk of foodborne illness and other health and safety hazards increases. We work closely with business owners and prospective owners so that they can gain information, obtain licensure, and meet inspection and other requirements. We diligently assist our clients so that they can be as successful as possible in their business ventures. Closing a food establishment is a measure of last resort. On occasion, a food establishment can be closed immediately and without warning if an imminent public health hazard is identified. Most often this occurs after all other interventions have failed. In the unfortunate situation that a business is closed due to licensing, safety, cleanliness, equipment, or other issues, we work closely with the business and owner to do everything possible to resume business and/or obtain proper licensure as soon as possible.

Another part of a healthy economy is healthy consumers. If we do not do our jobs as public health professionals, our residents will not be healthy enough to open, run, or patronize local businesses. We understand the importance of small business to the economy and public health regulation has its important, preventative place. It is crucial for us to implement it when appropriate. We have done this and continue to do it consistently in and for Macon County, as it is our mission, passion, and responsibility. Please visit our website at www.maconcountyhealth.org for more information about the ordinances, codes, license applications, and other related information.

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