



2017 Changes to Food Establishment Permitting Structure and Fees

Jefferson County Public Health has changed how food establishments are classified. The risk factors most often contributing to foodborne illness outbreaks have been identified by Federal, State and Local Public Health agencies (hot holding, cold holding, cooking, cooling, reheating, etc.). These risk factors were used, to evaluate the menu of foods served, to determine classification of the food establishment. The food establishment classification will also determine the annual permit fee and frequency of inspection. Most food establishments will have the same permit fee and inspection frequency as in previous years. Our goal is to minimize foodborne illness by prioritizing time spent in the establishments with the most risk to help reduce those risks through education and enforcement.

Three categories:

- **Category 1** (Limited risk operations such as Grocery, Espresso Stands, etc.)
 - Simple or no preparation
 - Cold holding packaged product
 - No cooking, warming only
 - **Category 2** (Moderate risk operations such as Meat & Fish Market, fast food, etc.)
 - Cooking
 - Hot holding
 - Cold holding of unpackaged product
 - Preparing raw meats and fish
 - No cooling or reheating
 - **Category 3** (High risk operations such as full restaurant, deli's etc.)
 - Complex preparation
 - Cooling and reheating included
- Permit endorsements and associated fees will be added to restaurants with lounges and /or catering.
 - Mobile units will be classified by the complexity of the menu.
 - Caterers operating without a restaurant permit will be classified by the complexity of their menu.
 - Commissary kitchens will be classified by the kitchen equipment and complexity of preparation.

The reclassification of existing food establishments was done using information from previously submitted menus, and observations of the food handling practices during previously conducted food safety inspections. We will be sending out an invoice and the annual food permit renewals shortly. If you feel the classification of your food establishment does not accurately reflect the risk factors for your menu contact Jefferson County Environmental Health M-Th. 9AM to 4:30 PM at 360-385-9444.
