



St. Mary's County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

www.smchd.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REVISED FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS (COMAR 10.15.03) GO INTO EFFECT

LEONARDTOWN, MD (February 6, 2008) -- The St. Mary's County Health Department's Food Safety Program is notifying food service facilities, and other food service providers that operate in the county, that the long expected revision of the food safety regulations became effective on December 17, 2007. Changes in COMAR 10.15.03 are being implemented, and while most of the code is similar to the old version, there are significant changes in a few areas.

Cold food must be refrigerated and held at or below 41 degrees F. The internal temperature of potentially hazardous cooked foods that are being cooled, must fall from 135 degrees F to 70 degrees F within two hours, and from 70 degrees F to 41 degrees F or less within an additional four hours. The holding temperature for hot foods can now be a minimum of 135 degrees F.

As an added measure to prevent foodborne illness, food service providers will also be accountable for a safe food handling regulation that requires no bare hand contact with ready-to-eat foods. Protective

(more)

Revised food safety regulations, p. 2

actions that should be taken to comply include; using disposable gloves, tongs, spatulas, deli paper, or an automatic dispenser to ensure a barrier between food service providers' hands and food served.

These revisions bring the Maryland Food Service Regulations closer in line with the widely accepted FDA Food Code. They apply to temporary food service providers, and are good practice for anyone preparing food for their family. As a reminder, the Health Department would like to mention that any food service event open to the public requires Health Department review and approval. Event organizers should make application for a temporary license at least two weeks in advance of their event.

Questions about the new regulations may be directed to the Environmental Health Division of the St. Mary's County Health Department at 301-475-4321, or visit our web site a www.smchd.org.

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