



## St. Mary's County Health Department

### NEWS RELEASE

[www.smchd.org](http://www.smchd.org)

William B. Icenhower, MD, MPH, Health Officer  
21580 Peabody Street,  
Leonardtown, MD 20650

**Contact:** Leslie Payne,  
Public Information Officer

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Telephone:** 301-475-4318

**Fax:** 301-475-4350

**E-mail:** [paynel@smhd.com](mailto:paynel@smhd.com)

### **TWO WEEK NOTICE REQUIRED FOR ALL TEMPORARY FOOD PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

LEONARDTOWN, MD (April 11, 2006) – Beginning June 1, 2006 St. Mary's County Health Department will require special events planners to submit applications for temporary food permits at least two weeks in advance of the event. Permit applications received at the health department that do not meet the two-week requirement will be denied. The strict requirement is being enforced to allow adequate time to process the application and inspect the facility, if necessary, to ensure the safety of local residents and visitors attending public events where food is served.

"The health department is confident that the public will adjust their plans to accommodate the new, more conservative permitting requirement," said Victor Kraznokutsky, environmental sanitarian program manager at the health department. Many local residents recall the serious food borne illness outbreak that occurred in St.

Mary's County in 1997, resulting in one death. "The new requirement is a direct result of an increase in number of permits we are getting as the number of public events increases, and the need to thoroughly satisfy that safety precautions are being practiced by the temporary food service provider."

Prior to June 1, the health department will make every effort to process permit applications submitted within the two week minimum, but will not guarantee completion of the process in time for the event. Planners are urged to abide by the new regulation immediately.

St. Mary's County Health Department Temporary food permits are required for all public

**(more)**

events where food or drinks are served, whether or not food is sold. Licensed food service facilities that conduct food operations in areas other than their approved and inspected preparation kitchens must also apply for a temporary permit. A printable, temporary food permit application is available at the health department Website > [www.smchd.org](http://www.smchd.org) <. Click on forms. For more information about applying for a temporary food permit, call the Environmental Health Services division of St. Mary's County Health Department at 301-475-4321.

# # #