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ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONSORTIUM

Guidelines for Food Sampling Activities Exempt from Transient Food Establishment Permitting

Sampling of free, bite-sized portions of any food item will not require licensing as long as the following are met:

- Sample should be bite-sized portions. Example: a whole cup of chili would not count as a bite-sized portion.
- Samples are free – no samples are being sold.
- Samples are safely dispensed to the public. All samples must be dispensed individually in disposable containers like portion cups or toothpicks, on single service napkins, or served with disposable utensils.
- Food is kept at proper hot or cold temperatures or Time as a Public Health Control is used.
- No bare hand contact with the food is allowed. Gloves or utensils are required to be used.
- A temporary hand washing station should be set-up.
- A wash, rinse, sanitizing station should be set up if utensils used to prep or portion samples will need to be washed onsite.
- All vendors giving free samples must provide a waste container in a prominent place and labeled for use by the public.

Please note that a temporary food license may be required for packaged, time/temperature control for safety foods or unpackaged foods that are being sold along with the sampling activities.