

TEMPORARY FOOD HANDLER'S LICENSE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Temporary Food Handler's Licenses are required for events where food is made available to the public.

Why are temporary food licenses required?

Under duties and powers provided to the municipality under state statute N.J.S.A. 26:3A2-10.c, Temporary Food Handler's Licenses are required by the Township of Wyckoff Health Department Code, 194-2. A license is required to ensure that organizations and businesses understand how to properly prepare and provide safe food. A food-related illness can result from poor food preparation and/or subsequent serving practices. If improper procedures are used, one or many people may become ill; some may require hospitalization and some may possibly die as a result of food-related illnesses. The very old, the very young, pregnant women and those who suffer from chronic illnesses are at great risk for food-related illness. When you apply for an application for a license to serve food, our Health Department staff members provide information on how to provide safe food at your event.

What events require Temporary Food Handler's Licenses?

Individuals or groups planning to hold events that are open to the public must obtain a license. The following are a few examples of events that typically require a license:

- A fair, carnival, music event or circus
- Community celebrations
- Public exhibitions
- Sports events
- Fundraisers
- Craft fairs
- Open houses
- Houses of Worship (advertised events)

A license must be obtained for each food booth operating during an event. The requirements do not change if the food is being sold or provided at no charge.

What if I use a caterer for my event?

Wyckoff-based caterers must have a standard license issued by the Board of Health. Caterers based outside Wyckoff must provide proof of municipal licensing and their most current food establishment rating.

Are there any events that do not require Temporary Food Handler's Licenses?

Your event does not require a Temporary Food Handler's License if the food is prepared or provided by members of a group for members of that group and their invited guests. Such events, however, **must be private**. Events require a license when they are publicly advertised (e.g., flyers, bulletins, banners, newspaper articles, public internet postings or any other similar means of promotion).

Examples of events that **do not require** a Temporary Food Handler's License are:

- A private meeting or an event for a meeting of an organization, association, a fraternal group or club
- An activity in a church or other religious congregation for its members (unadvertised)
- A private gathering such as a party, picnic or potluck where food is shared
- Private weddings whose organizers handle their own food preparation

Do I need a Temporary Food Handler's License for a bake sale?

A bake sale does not require a license as long as only dry baked goods, such as cookies, brownies and cake, are offered. If you are offering baked goods with cream toppings, fillings or such items as pumpkin pie then a license is required. The reason for this requirement is foods with soft fillings and toppings can spoil rapidly.

How do I obtain a Temporary Food Handler's License?

Contact the Wyckoff Health Department for an application at 201-891-7000 ext. 304 or email wyckoffboh@wyckoff-nj.com.

When should I submit an application?

An application for a temporary food handler's license must be submitted at least **two weeks** prior to your event to allow time for processing of the license. The cost of the license is \$65.00 for an event lasting 1-3 days and \$135.00 for an event lasting 4-7 days. All fees must be paid at the time the license application is submitted.

Other questions? Please contact your Wyckoff Health Department at 201-891-7000 ext. 304 or email wyckoffboh@wyckoff-nj.com.

Thank you!

Wyckoff Health Department