



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

Health Department Administration

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653 phone (414) 286-3521 fax (414) 286-5990
web site: www.milwaukee.gov/health

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Media Contact: Kwanza Newson
414-286-3548 Office
414-732-7250 Mobile

CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESTRUCTURES ITS FOOD INSPECTION PROGRAM

Local officials say changes will protect consumer health

The City of Milwaukee Health Department has implemented three key changes in its food inspection program that will safeguard the health and safety of restaurant patrons.

Beginning this week, all licensed food establishment owners will be given a placard after their inspection that will clearly list the establishment's name, address, name of licensee and most recent date of MHD inspection. This placard will also have information for patrons on how to access the establishment's inspection reports on the MHD website.

Once the health inspection has been completed by the Inspector, this placard must be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises of the licensed establishment. We define conspicuous as any place that is readily and easily visible to the public, such as the front door, front window or the front service area that is accessible to all patrons.

The Health Department will also realign its staff this year to allow implementation of a tiered inspection system. Under this new system, restaurants located within the City of Milwaukee will be inspected at an increased frequency based on the complexity of food service. For example, a restaurant in the highest risk category may receive up to three inspections per year, while one in the lowest category may only be inspected once per year.

Finally, all establishments who are required to have certified food managers will need to have these individuals re-certified. These certificates are issued by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and will only be renewed if the certificate holder satisfactorily passes a Conference for Food Protection accredited examination.

"Prevention of foodborne illness remains one of our department's top priorities," said Commissioner of Health, Bevan K. Baker. "We will continue with our proactive approach toward public disclosure associated with inspections so that patrons are protected against potential health hazards."

"I am excited about the changes in the food inspection program" said Alderman Michael Murphy. "Taking these steps will ensure that consumer safety is enhanced and that the community has access to all the information they need in determining where to dine."