

Date: July 19, 2010

Food inspection reports now available online

Food inspections are conducted at each food service facility in Kittitas County to help ensure that food establishments are safe places to eat. The results of these inspections are now accessible online at the Kittitas County Public Health Department website.

Inspection reports are available for all routine and follow-up inspections conducted after July 31, 2009. This means that most establishments will have one to two inspection reports available for the public to view. The number of routine food inspections a facility receives each year is based on risk factors including menu items and the extent of food preparation, with higher risk facilities receiving at least two inspections, and lower risk facilities receiving at least one.

Follow-up inspections are required in Kittitas County if a routine inspection results in more than 30 red violation points. Facilities are immediately closed until changes can be made if the inspection results in more than 70 red violation points. Red violations indicate practices that may put the public at higher risk for foodborne illness or injury. Food inspectors also check for blue violations which are lower risk items.

There are about 275 total food service facilities in Kittitas County, including restaurants, schools, mobile vendors, coffee houses, delis, convenience stores, grocery stores, and other sites where food is sold.

It is important to remember that inspection reports are snapshots of the food handling practices at an establishment at the time of the inspection. Conditions may vary on a daily basis. For more information, contact Kittitas County Public Health Department at (509) 962-7515 or visit the website at <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/>. To view the food inspection report page visit <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/food-establishments.asp>.

###