
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2015

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Third Annual Food Safety Award Winners Announced

GRAND RAPIDS – When you go to a restaurant, how do you know the kitchen is clean, or that the food is being held at proper temperatures, or came from a safe source? The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) checks every food establishment in our communities every year. KCHD's Third Annual Food Safety Awards recognizes establishments that show a high degree of safe food handling practices and sanitation. KCHD presents award winners with window clings and certificates to hang where patrons can see them.

KCHD staff feels it is important to recognize these particular locations for regularly passing inspections with few or no violations. "Following specific guidelines when preparing food can prevent a number of foodborne illnesses, ranging from norovirus to *E. coli*," says Adam London, Administrative Health Officer for Kent County. "Providing restaurants with this award recognizes that the owners, managers and employees strive to provide a clean cooking and serving environment. It also makes it easy for diners to see who is excelling at safe food preparation practices."

The Kent County Health Department issued 553 awards out of more than 1700 licensed facilities that were inspected through 2014. In order for the listed classes of food service establishments to qualify for an award, they must meet the following criteria:

- Facility was in operation during the year of review;
- Facility must have a certified food safety manager, if required, for year of review;
- No repeat violations for the two routine inspections conducted during the year of review;
- No confirmed violations of Michigan Smoke Free Law;
- No enforcement action taken against facility for year of review;
- No confirmed foodborne illness outbreaks linked to facility for year of review;
- No complaints which are confirmed by inspection and determined to be a public health risk;
- Must not receive any Priority or Priority Foundation violations in the licensing year;
- Based on the type of food service (i.e. snack bar, full-service prep,) had 0-3 Core Violations.

KCHD inspections look for potential risk factors that contribute to foodborne illness, such as an unapproved food source, poor food employee hygiene, improper cooking temperatures, inadequate cold & hot holding of food, and cleanliness of food contact surfaces. [Details and a list of the winners can be found here.](#)

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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