



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

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Contact: DPH Communications Office, 415-554-2716

San Francisco aims to keep street food safe to eat during Pride weekend Health Department to focus on preventing unpermitted mobile food vending

Public Health, Public Works, Police and Fire join to protect public safety during Pride weekend festivities

San Francisco, CA – The Department of Public Health, in conjunction with other City agencies, will take enforcement measures toward all non-permitted mobile food vendors during Pride weekend. Mobile food vendors have become increasingly popular in recent years, and those without permits may pose a public health risk in spreading food-borne illness.

Events such as the Pride weekend attract a large number of people to San Francisco. They also bring out a large number of non-permitted mobile food vendors catering to the thousands of visitors at these events. The risk of food-borne illness becomes greater with the increased number of unauthorized food vendors and people in the City.

To help prevent the risk of food-borne illness, all food vendors will be closely monitored during Pride weekend events June 24 through 26. Inspectors from the Environmental Health Branch of the Health Department will canvas areas where Pride events are planned and will shut down vendors that are operating without a permit.

“Every year, Pride weekend in San Francisco draws in thousands of visitors who will eat, drink and enjoy our City,” said Barbara Garcia, Director of Health. “Our top concern is people’s health and safety. We don’t want anyone getting sick when they are here to enjoy the festivities surrounding a great weekend.”

In San Francisco, there are 300 food trucks and more than 50 food carts (hotdog carts, coffee carts, etc.) with permits to sell food. City and State law requires all mobile vendors to obtain the necessary permits in order to operate. Vendors are also required to meet specific food handling and safety standards set by The California Retail Food Code.

The CA Retail Food Code is set forth to prevent the risk of food-borne illness. It includes maintaining proper hand washing stations, hot and cold temperature controls, measures to prevent cross-contamination, adequate food storage, and food handling training certification.

In addition to health code requirements, vendors must abide by parking, sidewalk and fire code requirements. San Francisco Public Works permits mobile food vendors, allowing them to utilize areas that do not block traffic or impede the path of travel for pedestrians. The Fire Department enforces the

fire code to ensure vendors properly maintain and safely operate LP-Gas, such as butane and propane, and open flame equipment. As City partners, Public Health, Public Works, the Police and Fire Departments all take seriously the health and safety of Pride weekend participants.

Due to these requirements, the process to obtain a permit to operate as a mobile food vendor can take 1-2 months. This does not give current vendors time to obtain a permit before Pride weekend. The Environmental Health Branch and branches of other City Departments are always open to answer questions and give guidance regarding the permitting process.

Members of the public can also help prevent food-borne illness by purchasing from mobile food vendors displaying a current inspection decal issued by the San Francisco Health Department. This decal signifies that the vendor has passed all code requirements and is permitted to operate within San Francisco. Additionally, those who get sick after eating from a food truck, hotdog cart, etc. are encouraged to report the vendor to <http://www.sf311.org> or by calling 311 (415-701-2311), so that potentially unsafe situations can be tracked and addressed.

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About SF Department of Public Health

The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans. SFDPH strives to achieve its mission through the work of two main Divisions – the San Francisco Health Network and the Population Health Division. The San Francisco Health Network is the City's only complete system of care and has locations throughout the City, including Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, and more than 15 primary care health centers. With a broad community focus, the ultimate goal of the Population Health Division is to ensure that San Franciscans have optimal health and wellness at every stage of life. To achieve this, the Division is comprised of branches dedicated to core public health services, such as health protection and promotion, disease and injury prevention, disaster preparedness and response, and environmental health services.

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