



## WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Food Safety Program – Exemptions from Temporary Event Permit Requirements

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#### *The following are events that do not require a temporary food establishment permit:*

##### **Private Event**

If you have a private event, you do not need a temporary food establishment permit. Private event means a private gathering restricted to members and guests of members of a family, organization, or club; where the event is not open to the general public and where food is provided without compensation such as:

- A meeting or an event for a private or charitable organization, association, a fraternal group, or club.
- An activity in a church or other religious congregation for members only.
- A gathering such as a party, picnic or potluck where food is shared.
- Private weddings or celebrations.

##### **Bake Sale**

No temporary food establishment permit is required for a nonprofit organization operating for religious, charitable, or educational purposes and selling **only** non-potentially hazardous baked goods. A bake sale may run in conjunction with a temporary event.

Examples of non-potentially hazardous baked goods are cookies, brownies, and cake. If you are offering baked goods with cream toppings or fillings, custard fillings such as pumpkin pie, meringue pies or cheesecakes a temporary permit is required.

##### **Potlucks**

Potlucks do not need a temporary food establishment permit as long as:

1. People are gathered to share food,
2. People attending are expected to bring food to share,
3. There is no compensation provided to people for bringing food to the event,
4. There is no charge for any food or beverage provided at the event and
5. The event is not for commercial purposes.

Potlucks may *not* be held at permitted food establishments.

Please see the following link for safe food handling at potlucks: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Cooking\\_for\\_Groups.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Cooking_for_Groups.pdf)

##### **Exempt Food**

You do not need a permit from our office to offer the following foods:

- Hot beverages that are not potentially hazardous such as coffee, tea or apple cider.
- Packaged food that does not require temperature control for safety, such as chips or soda.
- Non-potentially hazardous food produced and packaged in a licensed food establishment that is served from the original container or package without direct hand contact with limited portioning directly onto a single service articles. For example, BBQ sauce sampled on a plastic spoon or nuts portioned into a plastic cup.
- Unprocessed fruits and vegetables (field cut only).
- Packaged frozen confections produced in a licensed food establishment such as individually packaged ice cream bars.
- Dry foods that are not ready to eat foods such as dry beans, dry grains, in shell nuts, and coffee beans.