



Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Grant County

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Food Inspection Reports now Available Online

Ephrata, WA – Grant County Health District announces the launch of the **Food Program Online Restaurant Reporting System**, www.granthealth.org/FoodInspections.html. Users may review recent inspection reports and scores for Grant County food service establishments from the perspective of safe food handling or "food safety." Monthly, the health district will post the previous month's food establishment inspections. Only inspections from August 1, 2010 forward will be posted and available online.

There are over 500 permitted food service establishments in Grant County. The majority of these establishments have two unannounced inspections per year. Washington State law requires food establishments that sell or serve food to the public obtain an annual permit and be inspected by the local health jurisdiction. Food establishments include restaurants, espresso stands, food trucks, delis, the fresh food sections in grocery stores, temporary events where food is distributed, and more.

The purpose of the inspections is to assure that the food is being handled properly through all stages of preparation. Inspectors observe the practices of food workers, assure equipment is working properly, take food temperatures, inspect refrigerator and storage areas, evaluate water temperature, and correct level and use of sanitizer. Any violation of the Washington Food Code WAC 246-215 is documented and the manager is taught the correct procedure. Because Grant County Health District Environmental Health Specialists are only present for a brief time each year, education of the owner and manager is emphasized during each inspection.

"An inspection report is a snapshot of the food handling practices at an establishment during the time of the inspection," states Jerry Campbell, Grant County Health District Environmental Health Manager. "Our food inspectors are very committed to open communication and building relationships between themselves and the food establishment owners and managers."

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