



CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SERVICES

Environmental Health 2017

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I hope you will share this information with the members of your chamber. I encourage your members to contact me on any of the topics covered in this newsletter or any other Environmental Health issue.

Please contact me at (925) 692-2521 or marilyn.underwood@hsd.cccounty.us.

Sincerely,

Marilyn C. Underwood, Ph.D., REHS

PHARMACEUTICAL TAKEBACK MADE EASIER

This past year, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors (BOS) addressed the lack of convenient and safe access to disposal sites for unwanted or unused medicine (<http://cchealth.org/safe-drug-disposal/>). These medicines, both prescription and non-prescription drugs, are often left in homes, where they can be accidentally swallowed or misused by children, teens, adults, and the elderly. In fact, in 2015 alone over 43% (~2800) of all calls placed from Contra Costa County to the Poison Control System concerned children who unintentionally consumed prescription or non-prescription drugs. Contra Costa County adopted an ordinance called the Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance ([§418-16](#)) on December 20, 2016, that establishes a program for the collection and disposal of unwanted and/or unused prescription and non-prescription drugs. The ordinance draws on the concept of “extended producer responsibility” (EPR). Like

other EPR laws now passed in approximately 11 other California counties, the ordinance requires manufacturers of products too hazardous to be disposed of through the municipal waste stream – in this case, prescription and non-prescription drugs – to take financial and logistical responsibility for their safe disposal. The ordinance requires that pharmaceutical manufacturers create safe and convenient locations for the citizens of the unincorporated areas of the county to dispose of their unwanted/unused medicine, though the locations do not need to be located in unincorporated area. There are currently dropoff locations in many parts of the county, specifically within police departments.





TEMPORARY EVENT (SPECIAL EVENT) PERMITS

As you may be aware, a church sponsored Thanksgiving event in Contra Costa County last year was tied to the deaths of three individuals who ate food given away at the event. Feeding the general public has food safety concerns associated with it and the Health Department per state law has the responsibility to make sure the food is prepared and served in a safe manner. We are making a renewed effort to get the word out that any event where food is served to the general public, whether it is given away or sold, requires a health department review of the food handling plans for the event and inspection the day of the event. A special event such as this requires a Temporary Food Permit from Contra Costa County Environmental Health (<http://cchealth.org/eh/retail-food/#simpleContained3>).

If a non-profit association, a business, or a government agency sponsors an event open to the general public that includes food, the organizer needs to apply for a Temporary Food Permit. Last year as we were investigating the Thanksgiving related deaths, we also found that a local business was assembling and distributing hundreds of Thanksgiving meals in to-go packages. The food was made in the homes of their customers. Preparing a large volume of food poses many more food safety issues than preparing food for a family. That is why feeding the public must be done under permit whether it be a permanent or temporary food facility at an event.

If a business/entity owns or manages a facility and someone wants to rent the facility, and the event is open to the general public and includes food, please require as a part of the rental/leasing application that an approved Temporary Food Facility Permit is required. Many of you already have addressed these issues, and I thank you for helping us. And lastly, as you are aware, events sponsored by the chamber where there is advertising to the general public and the event involves food, need to obtain a Temporary Food Facility Permit.

When obtaining a Temporary Food Facility Permit, we walk the organizer through the important aspects of how to have a successful event providing safe food.

We appreciate you helping us get the word out.



