

# Pender County

## Health Department

...Building a healthier tomorrow...

Carolyn Moser, MPA  
Health Director

### DO I NEED A TEMPORARY FOOD SERVICE PERMIT?

(Food Service Operations Exempt from Permit Requirements)

1. **Only Non-profit, Tax exempt and Political groups** may cook foods for sale to the public without a permit, so long as they operate not more frequently than once per month for not more than two consecutive days. This means they could operate one 2-day weekend per month. These groups must have information available to prove their exempt status.

Exempt Groups	Written Proof of Exemption
Nonprofit Corporations	Copy of one-page Articles of Incorporation, which certified nonprofit status.
Exempt from Federal Income Tax	A document with your federal tax ID number on it
Political Committees	Compliance with GS 163-278.6(14)

*\*\*Exempt organizations should include the necessary documentation with the first page of the PCHD Temporary Event Food Vendor Application.*

The following are examples of groups exempt from permit requirements:

- Churches
- Service Organizations (Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc)
- Booster Clubs
- Civic Clubs
- Scouts
- Fire Departments
- Political Committee Fundraisers

2. Foods that can be sold without a permit for any number of days include the following:

- Dip Ice Cream
- Popcorn
- Candy
- Cotton Candy
- Drinks served in disposable cups. Lemonade, orange and grapefruit juices are the only “fresh” fruit juices that can be sold without a permit.
- Commercially packaged and labeled sandwiches, pizza etc. Wrapped sandwiches may be purchased from a permitted restaurant and resold, **if they are not opened before sale to the customer**. Also, pizza cannot be purchased whole and sold by the slice. **Nacho Cheese cannot be sold unless in individual commercial packages. Bulk service usually requires a permit. Contact the Health Department to clarify this issue.**
- Packaged Chips
- Canned or bottled soft drinks
- Candied Apple
- Crackers

# Pender County

## Health Department

*...Building a healthier tomorrow...*

*Carolyn Moser, MPA*

*Health Director*

Note: If your menu qualifies as being exempt from permitting, please complete the first page of the PCHD Temporary Event Food Vendor Application and list out your menu items so that we can confirm that your menu qualifies for exempt status. You do not need to complete the application in its entirety if you believe your menu meets the exemptions nor pay the \$75 fee.

3. Persons who hold a valid Mobile Food Unit or Pushcart permit from this or another County Health Department in North Carolina will not need another permit for a single day of operation. These persons are required to notify the local Health Department of their sites of operations within the county.

### **FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS REQUIRING A PERMIT**

1. Food vendors (individuals or groups that cannot prove that they are non-profit) that sell cooked foods (other than exempt foods listed above) must have a permit.
2. Non-profit groups that want to operate more often than once per month must have a permit.
3. Permitted Mobile Food Units or Push Carts that are serving for multiple consecutive days and are unable to return to their commissary between the days of service.

These operations must contact the Pender County Health Department at (910) 259-1233 to obtain the necessary permit information.

**803 S. Walker St., Burgaw, NC 28425    (910) 259-1328    Fax (910) 259-1258**

**Environmental Health (910) 259-1233    WIC (910) 259-1290**