Food, Pools, and Lodging Services Section
625 North Robert Street, P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-4500
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh

Food and Beverage Licensing Requirements

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and local public health agencies license and inspect food and beverage establishments in Minnesota. This fact sheet provides general information regarding this topic.

Who will license the establishment?

Food and beverage establishments in Minnesota are licensed by a variety of different agencies. The establishment's location and menu determines which agency will issue the license.

Determine whether your license will be issued by MDH, your local jurisdiction, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, or Indian Health Services. To find out which agency will issue a license, see the Food, Pools, and Lodging Services Section website at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/food/license/index.html.

How is a food and beverage license obtained?

Individuals or groups interested in operating a food and beverage establishment must submit a plan review application with fees and obtain approval from MDH or the local public health agency before new construction or remodeling may begin. MDH plan review submission requirements, application, and additional resources are available at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/food/license/planreview.

Once the plan is approved, a pre-operational inspection will be required to determine if a license can be issued. Contact MDH or the local public health agency for a pre-operational inspection. The license application and fees must be submitted prior to receiving final approval to operate. For more information about MDH Special Licensing (e.g., Special Event Food Stand) see the website under Web Resources.

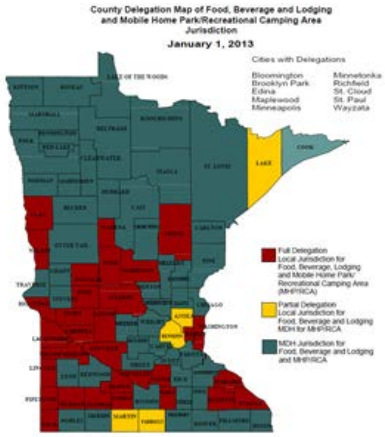
If you are purchasing an existing licensed establishment and facilities, equipment and menu will not change, contact MDH or your local public health agency to determine license fees and receive final approval if the establishment complies with Minnesota regulations.

MDH License Contacts:

Phone: 651-201-4505

Email: health.foodlodging@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/food/license/contactus.html



Web Resources:

- MDH Special Licensing: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/food/license/special.html
- Licensing Definitions: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/food/license/fblestdef.html
- Statewide Hospitality Fee www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/food/license/hospfee.html
- Minnesota Northstar: State License Resource http://mn.gov/elicense/licenses/licensedetail

If you require this document in another format call 651-201-4500.

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