

Potluck Dinners, Barbeques, Fish Fries, Garden Produce & Other Good Things

Family, friends, and others within the community enjoy sharing produce and sponsoring meal-related events (such as fish fries, potluck dinners, and barbeques). Long term care facility staff may have questions regarding these types of situations.

Here are tips to follow when food will be shared with long term care facility residents:



Home-canned, -frozen, or -dried fruits and vegetables **cannot be served through the facility kitchen by facility staff to the general resident population for residents' routine meals and snacks.**



Family and friends may bring home-canned, -frozen, or -dried fruits and vegetables, and home-processed meats for consumption by their resident. Regulations do not prohibit sharing with a roommate or other close friends in the facility.



Raw fruits and vegetables grown in a garden or purchased at a local farmers' market may be prepared and served through the facility kitchen by facility staff to residents, as long as fruits/vegetables are in sound condition, free from spoilage, filth and other contaminants, and appropriately stored and washed before serving.



Raw meat prepared and served through the facility kitchen by facility staff for residents **must be obtained from sources that comply with all laws relating to food and food labeling.**



Potluck dinners, barbeques, and fish fries sponsored for residents by family members or community groups (such as churches, schools, fire fighters, police, military, etc.) should be encouraged by facility staff. These social events do not fall under the same guidelines as food served through the facility kitchen by facility staff.



Family or friends may bring home-processed meats for their resident's consumption if the resident chooses to eat the product.



Only commercially prepared milk may be served through the facility kitchen by facility staff to residents.



If it is obvious that perishable foods are being stored improperly for extended periods of time, the facility administrator will need to intervene appropriately.

Should you have any questions,
please contact the Section for Long Term Care Regulation
at (573) 526-8524.