



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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TO: Regional EPHS V's
Local Public Health Administrators
Local Environmental Public Health Specialists

FROM: Eric Hueste, Chief
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SUBJECT: Food Inspections in Long Term Care Facilities

DATE: September 21, 2016

Recently the Bureau of Environmental Health Services has received questions regarding food inspections in nursing home facilities. The food code defines what is and what isn't a food establishment. The definitions are in chapter 1 of the food code where it states: any operation that "stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends food directly to the consumer or otherwise provides food for human consumption such as a restaurant; satellite or catered feeding location; ..." is a food establishment.

Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs), Residential Care Facilities (RCFs) and Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs) would be considered food establishments by the previous definition. Since these facilities meet the definition of a food establishment they should be routinely inspected. However, agencies that inspect using the state's food code should recognize that there is a branch of the Department of Health and Senior Services that conducts inspections of nursing homes. The Section for Long Term Care conducts inspections of SNFs, ICFs, RCFs and ACFs. These facility inspections occur annually and contain a food safety inspection component.

Any agency that wishes to inspect a SNF, ICF, RCF, or ACF should do so under their own local authority. Agencies using the state's authority will recognize the Section for Long Term Care's inspection as the required food inspection for that facility. Additional inspections will not be required in the facilities inspected by Section for Long Term Care. This does not include senior centers or other feeding sites.

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