



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

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## NEWS

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### **Efficiencies Result in Reduced Fees for All Retail Food Licensing**

**Hamilton County, OH.....**Hamilton County Public Health is implementing a 12 percent reduction in licensing fees for all food service and retail food operations, effective February 1, 2012.

Technology and realignment have driven the cost savings, according to Hamilton County Health Commissioner, Tim Ingram. “We have incorporated considerable new technology in our inspection and reporting processes,” Ingram says. “Electronic reporting and data collection speed up the process and provide the public with information on our findings much more quickly. Our establishments get a reduced fee structure while the public gets faster access to our reports through our website.”

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## NEWS

### Food Licensing Fees

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Hamilton County Public Health licenses approximately 2,500 food establishments in its jurisdiction. “This is the second consecutive year we’ve been able to reduce fees,” Ingram says. “We’re able to reduce fees while maintaining and improving our service. Our cost reductions in inspection and licensing have had no effect on the incidence of food-borne illness in the area, which is the most important measure of all.”

Operator education is the centerpiece of the agency’s inspection and licensing program. “We offer a variety of classes on safe food handling and dealing with food-borne illnesses,” Ingram reports. “Our program model is heavily weighted on education over enforcement. We’d rather have a knowledgeable food service community that works with us to maintain and improve standards. That has proven to be a better model than one based on enforcement.”

Information on Hamilton County Public Health inspection and licensing services, including individual location reports, is available at [www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org).

*Hamilton County Public Health works to assure the 450,000 citizens living outside the cities of Cincinnati, Norwood, Sharonville and Springdale are safe from disease, injury and contamination.*

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