



HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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For Immediate Release: January 12, 2011

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NEWS

FEES FOR RESTAURANT OPERATION LOWERED IN HAMILTON COUNTY

HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO – Hamilton County Public Health is reducing fees for all Food Service Operations and Retail Food Establishments for the 2011 licensing year. The Hamilton County Board of Health approved the regulation at a special meeting on Wednesday, January 12. Online license renewal will also be available for the first time.

Fees are reduced from 15 to 20 percent depending on the type of facility – whether a full-service restaurant, a convenience store or even an ice cream truck.

“This fee reduction is a direct result of cost-cutting measures and increased efficiencies,” said Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Health Commissioner. “We are able to directly relay these cost savings to the customer.”

Implementing digital inspections using handheld computers and portable printers has allowed public health sanitarians to more efficiently and effectively conduct inspections. Completed inspection reports are printed on the spot for the business owner or manager. Hamilton County Public Health has also been judicious in regards to staff assignment areas so sanitarians spend more time inspecting facilities rather than traveling around the county.

“This fee reduction helps free up money that a lot of small businesses may not have,” said Chris Girmann, owner of Little Dutch Bakery in Mount Healthy. “Everybody appreciates saving any money so this is absolutely a good thing.”

Restaurant operators also have the ability to renew their license online at www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org. Hamilton County Public Health is the first health department in Ohio to make food service license renewals available online.

“Adding the option of online license renewal provides our customers with an easy alternative so they can make their payment from anywhere,” Ingram said.

Hamilton County Public Health inspects more than 2,300 food service facilities including restaurants, banquet centers, school cafeterias and refrigerated vending machines. Jurisdiction includes 43 cities, villages and townships excluding the cities of Cincinnati, Norwood, Springdale, Sharonville and St. Bernard.

Data collected during food service inspections are connected to a searchable online database. Inspection reports for restaurants, grocery stores and cafeterias are posted online daily at www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org.

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