Food and Beverage Safety

Any individual or organization (event sponsor) producing an event is required to obtain a Temporary Event Health Permit from the SF Department of Public Health when they are offering food and/or beverage to the public. Food and beverage must be provided by a licensed retail food operation. To learn more about SF Department of Public Health retail food licensing, click here. For questions, contact ehtempevents@sfdph.org.

If any of the following apply to your event, then you will need to obtain a Temporary Event Health Permit:
» Event is free or a ticket/pass can be purchased by the general public;
» Event is advertised through media - internet, newspaper, television, radio, and billboard;
» The general public would attend the event either by interest of the trade or advertisement of the event.

An event is considered private, and does not require a Temporary Event Health Permit to operate, if the following criteria are met:
» Event is invitation only or held for a private club or corporation;
» Participants need eligibility to attend, such as a professional licenses or certificate for the profession (e.g. doctors, lawyers, teachers, plumbers).

For booth/structure requirements, click here.
For food handling requirements, click here.
For permit applications and fees, click here.
For waiver information for non-profit event sponsors, click here.

“Do Food Trucks Need Permits and Inspections?” Yes. Click here to learn more.

IMPORTANT DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEADLINES FOR TEMPORARY EVENT PERMITS:
14 Days or More Prior to Event:
All completed applications and fees must be received by Department of Public Health (DPH). If event falls on a weekend, the application packet is due 3 Fridays before the event.

8 – 13 Days Prior to Event:
All completed applications will be assessed a 50% late fee from DPH.

7 or Fewer Days Prior to Event:
Applications will be denied by DPH and no food or beverage service shall be allowed.

For rules, permit applications, and fees, visit the SF Department of Public Health's special events page.

For questions, contact ehtempevents@sfdph.org.