
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kent County Waives 2021 Food Service Licensing Fees
Restaurants Still Required to Submit Renewal Application

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (March 25, 2021) – The Kent County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted today to waive the 2021 food service licensing fee for all existing food establishments in Kent County due to the significant hardship food establishments have experienced with closures and capacity limitations related to COVID-19.

“Our restaurant owners and employees are hurting - they are among the hardest hit by the pandemic,” said Kent County Board Chair Mandy Bolter. “The Board of Commissioners felt very strongly about waiving this fee as one small way to provide meaningful assistance where possible.”

This one-time waiver will apply to the 2,294 existing food establishments (permanent, fixed, temporary, Special Transitory Food Units, or mobile) in Kent County that would otherwise be required to pay their annual licensing and inspection fee by April 30, 2021.

While the licensing and inspection fees are being waived, all restaurants are still required to submit a renewal application by April 30, 2021. The application will ensure establishments remain licensed during the 2021-2022 operating period. If an establishment does not intend to renew its license, the application still should be returned but include a signed note requesting its license be cancelled. Food establishments should expect to receive a renewal application from the Health Department within the next two weeks.

“The Health Department has worked tirelessly with our restaurants and bars over the last year to adapt to evolving regulations and occupancy restrictions,” said Kent County Health Department Director Dr. Adam London. “We are keenly aware of the challenges facing these establishments and we appreciate the Board providing this financial relief as they continue to weather the impacts of the pandemic.”

Restaurant owners with questions should contact the Kent County Health Department, Environmental Health Division at 616-632-6900 or KCEHMail@kentcountymi.gov.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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