

POLICY AND PROCEDURE	
SUBJECT/TITLE	Food Service Grade Posting
APPLICABILITY	Environmental
CONTACT PERSON & DIVISION	Marcy Rein, Administration
ORIGINAL DATE ADOPTED	9/15/2025
LATEST EFFECTIVE DATE	9/15/2025
REVIEW FREQUENCY	3 years
BOARD APPROVAL DATE	09/15/2025
REFERENCE NUMBER	4.4

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to require eligible food service establishments operating within Whitley County to post a supplemental sanitation grade to give the public knowledge of the food service establishment's techniques for storage, preparation, display and service of food for the underlying purpose of preventing food borne illness and protecting public health.

B. POLICY

To ensure transparency, public health protection, and compliance with sanitation standards, all eligible food service establishments within Whitley County shall post their most recent inspection report plus a sanitation grade in a conspicuous location visible to patrons upon entry. This policy adds to current relevant state and federal requirements, and any establishment that is not included in this policy must still follow the other requirements.

C. BACKGROUND

It is the duty of the Whitley County Health Department to establish policies and to plan and implement programs that safeguard the health of people in Whitley County, including investigating and abating potential causes of sickness and illness. Food service establishments that fail to follow procedures that ensure safe, clean, and sanitary conditions and standards may promote a cause of sickness or illness. The health department permits and inspects certain establishments according to the requirements in the Kentucky Food Code. Inspections are a point-in-time assessment of food service conditions.

D. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

High Priority Violation: Any violation that poses an immediate risk to public health, as identified on the Food Establishment Inspection Report (<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/fsb/FSDocs/dfs208.pdf>) in bold and uppercase letters.

Food: Any raw, cooked, or processed edible substance, ice, beverage, or ingredient used or intended for sale, in whole or in part, for human consumption.



Food Service Establishment: Any fixed or mobile commercial establishment that engages in the preparation and serving of ready-to-eat foods in portions to the consumer, including but not limited to: restaurants, coffee shops, cafeterias, short order cafes, luncheonettes, grills, tea rooms, sandwich shops, soda fountains, taverns, bars, cocktail lounges, nightclubs, roadside stands, industrial feeding establishments, private, public or nonprofit organizations, markets, farmer's markets or similar places in which food is prepared for sale or service on the premises or elsewhere with or without charge.

Health authority: The Whitley County Health Department Public Health Director or their designee, having jurisdiction over the food service establishment.

Mobile Food Unit: A vehicle-mounted food service establishment designed to be readily moveable.

Retail Food Store: Any fixed or mobile establishment where food or food products, including prepackaged, labeled sandwiches or other food to be heated in a microwave or infrared oven at the time of purchase, are offered for sale to the consumer, and intended for off-premises consumption, but shall not include establishments which handle only prepackaged, shelf-stable snack-type, low-risk foods, markets that offer only whole uncut and uncooked fresh fruits and vegetables for sale, food service establishments, food and beverage vending machines, vending machine commissaries, or food processing establishments.

Retail Food Establishment: Any food service establishment, retail food store or a combination of both within the same establishment.

Restricted Concessions: Any food service establishment which prepares and serves items and ingredients considered to be low risk for food borne illness as defined by Section 4 of the Kentucky Food Code.

Sanitation Grade: A letter grade (A, B, C) based on inspection score and violation severity.

Temporary Food Operations: Any food service establishment that operates at a fixed location for a period not to exceed fourteen (14) consecutive days.

E. PROCEDURES

1. **Applicability:** This policy applies to food service establishments, mobile food units, retail food stores and retail food establishments.
 - a. Restricted concessions are not subject to this policy.
 - b. Temporary food service establishments that operate at a fixed location for a period of not more than fourteen (14) consecutive days in conjunction with a single event of celebration may be exempted from this policy by the health authority.
2. The Health Department Health Environmentalist will superimpose the numerical score of the inspection of the establishment and related information (see Appendices) upon the health inspection placard:



Sanitation Grade A Criteria	Sanitation Grade B Criteria	Sanitation Grade C Criteria
Score of 93-100% with no high priority violations.	Score of 85-92% with no high priority violations.	Score of 84% or below, OR Includes any high-priority violations.

- a. Grade A acknowledges good safe food handling practices and designates a facility that meets the Kentucky State Food Code without high-priority violations.
 - b. Grade B indicates the facility is acceptable but has failed to meet all the Kentucky State Food Code
 - c. Grade C indicates the establishment is marginal and failed to meet all the minimum requirements of the Kentucky State Food Code in its most recent inspection. A follow-up inspection may be required within ten (10) days.
3. The establishment will post the health inspection placard within the establishment in a place conspicuous to the public and that is clearly visible upon entry into the establishment, in consultation with the health environmentalist.
 4. The health inspection placard shall remain posted until the Health Department conducts the next inspection.
 - a. Health inspection placards and “closed” signs remain the property of the Whitley County Health Department.
 - b. The removal, defacement or concealment of a posted health inspection placard or “closed” sign may cause the placard being reposted for an additional period to be determined by the Health Department.
 - i. Repeat offenses of 2(b) may cause an action for permit suspension or revocation with automatic closure and required conference.
 5. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this policy is, for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this policy.

F. CITATIONS AND REFERENCES

KRS Chapter 212.230 (1)(c)
 KRS 212.715 Orders of health agencies
 KRS 212.990 Penalties
 KRS 217 Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act
 FDA 2013 Food Code (<https://www.fda.gov/food/fda-food-code/food-code-2013>)
 902 KAR 45:005 Kentucky Food Code
 (<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/902/045/005/>)
 902 KRS 45:110 Permits and fees for retail food establishments, vending machine companies, and restricted food concessions
 DFS-208 Commonwealth of Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services Department for Public Health Food Establishment Inspection Report
 (<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/fsb/FSDocs/dfs208.pdf>)



G. APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Sanitation Score A

Appendix B: Sanitation Score B

Appendix C: Sanitation Score C

REVISION AND REVIEW HISTORY

Revision Date	Review Date	Author	Notes