

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE (DOHMH)  
BUREAU OF FOOD SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SANITATION (BFSCS)

Commissioner Thomas Frieden, M.D., MPH

**WHAT THE AGENCY DOES**

The Bureau of Food Safety and Community Sanitation (BFSCS) regulates food service establishments to ensure that all foods that are prepared, sold or given to the public are safe. Public Health Sanitarians (commonly called Inspectors) inspect the following places:

- Food service establishments such as restaurants, bars and clubs. **We do not inspect supermarkets.**
- Mobile Food Vending carts and trucks
- Public and Private school cafeterias
- Soup kitchens
- Temporary food establishments, such as street fairs
- Summer Day Camps
- Multiple dwellings for proper window guard installation

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

If you want to operate any of the above establishments, you can obtain an application from the **Citywide Licensing Center** located at 42 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Manhattan, New York.

Mobile Food Vending:

If you want to sell food from a pushcart, truck, stand, or on any establishment that can be moved from one place to another, you must apply for a license (pictured identification) and a permit (decal) from the DOHMH. You cannot sell food on a mobile food unit without a permit (decal).

Permits: There are four classes of permits

- **Public Property**
  - Full Term Citywide: vending is permitted citywide year round, except where vending is restricted or prohibited. This permit is valid for a renewable two-year period.
  - Borough-Specific, Full Term: vending is permitted only in the borough specified on the permit. This permit is valid for a renewable two-year period.
  - Temporary/Seasonal Citywide: vending is permitted citywide year round except in areas where vending is restricted or prohibited. Valid from April 1<sup>st</sup> until October 31<sup>st</sup> each year, renewable yearly.
- **Private Property**
  - Restricted Permit: means private space such as a vacant lot or park. There is no limit on how many permits can be issued. However, the applicant must first get a lease, contract, or other approval from the property owner to sell food on the premise.

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Note that any geographic restrictions on vending can be determined by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

The law limits the number of permits that may be issued to sell food on public property such as streets and sidewalks. DOHMH awards permits by a lottery process so that anyone who is interested in obtaining one gets an equal/fair chance. If you are selected your name is placed on a waiting list until a vacancy occurs.

**WHO TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS/CONCERNS**

Website: [www.nyc.gov/health](http://www.nyc.gov/health)

Phone Numbers:

For information on current permit vacancies contact the Citywide Licensing Center at 212-487-4104/4105.

For information on window guard regulations, which are also managed by DOHMH, please call 212-676-1600

To make a complaint or fir other questions, please call 311