



Pat Quinn, Governor
Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Health Departments
Local Emergency Management Agencies
Illinois State Response Agencies

FROM: David W. Culp, Ph.D.
Deputy Director, Office of Health Protection

DATE: May 5, 2011

RE: Food Donations to Approved Shelters

The following guidance has been prepared to respond to questions regarding the donation of food to approved shelters. All food operations at approved (inspected) shelters are regulated under the requirements of the Illinois Food Service Sanitation Code (77 Ill. Adm. Code 750).

The following section of the Code is applicable for food served at approved shelters:

Section 750.100

Food shall be in sound condition, free from spoilage, filth, and other contamination and shall be safe for human consumption. Food shall be obtained from sources that comply with all laws relating to food and food labeling. Use of home prepared or hermetically sealed food which has been processed in a place other than a whole-sale food processing establishment is prohibited.

In general, inspected shelters may accept prepared, ready-to-eat foods that are donated by a licensed food service establishment. Additionally, inspected shelters can accept commercially prepared, non-potentially hazardous food such as:

- 1) Canned foods that are not rusted, leaky, swollen, or otherwise defective such as badly dented on any of the seams; and
- 2) Baked goods that are unspoiled and fit for human consumption.

Other food items may be considered for donation at the discretion of the approved shelter's director or manager in consultation with the local health department.