

Health Wise Quarterly

Brought to you by the friendly staff at your

Environmental Health Services Division

October - December 2019



Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) offers monthly Food Safety Presentations from 3:00PM - 4:30PM. Trainings are held at Rutherford Lane Campus [1520 Rutherford Lane, Building 1, Suite 205](#) Interested in attending? Register by phone 512-978-0300 or via email: EHSD.service@austintexas.gov

October 15, 2019	Requirements for Starting a Food Enterprise and the Inspection Process
November 19, 2019	Requirements and Processes for Submitting a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)
December 17, 2019	Temporary Events and Mobile Vendor Inspections

Changes in Texas Legislative Session For Farmers Markets



Governor Abbott signed S.B. 932 and H.B. 1694 at the end of this year’s legislative session. Both went into effect on September 1, 2019. What this means for farmers markets is that all farmers markets fees, regardless of permit type (Class A, B, or C), will not be higher than \$100.00. Since sampling no longer requires a permit, the permit types have changed slightly. No permit will be required for sampling at a farmers market. All of these changes took effect, September 1, 2019.

[Click HERE for the New Fee Schedule effective September 1, 2019](#)

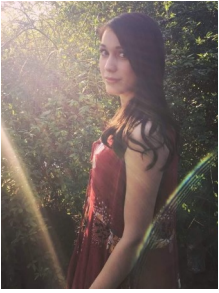
Bills Passed:

S.B. 932 A permit issued under Section 437.003, 437.004, 437.0055, or 437.0201 to a person described by Subsection (b): (1) must be valid for a term of not less than one year; (2) may impose an annual fee in an amount not to exceed \$100 for the issuance or renewal; and (3) must cover sales at all locations within the jurisdiction of the permitting authority. SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

H.B.1694 The department or a local government authority, including a local health department, may not require a person to obtain a permit under this chapter to provide samples of food at a farm or farmers’ market under this section. SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

Congratulations to New and Promoted EHSD Staff!

BE SO GOOD THEY CAN'T IGNORE YOU. ~Steve Martin~



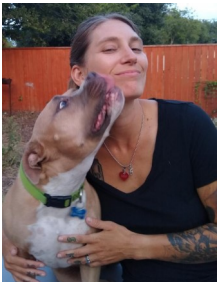
Megan Carreon: Environmental Health Officer I

Howdy! Megan was born and raised in Boerne, Texas. She graduated from the Texas Aggie Class of 2017 with a Bachelor's Degree in Nutritional Science. After college, Megan moved to Austin with her two fur-babies to work for the City of Austin as a WIC Nutritionist. While working at WIC, Megan served the community by providing nutrition education and counseling to families with expecting mothers, infants, and young children. Recently, she switched divisions and is now working as an Environmental Health Officer to help protect the public from food-borne illnesses. Megan is very excited about this new position, and is grateful to have found a career where she can continue to help others.



Jaemi Duran: Environmental Health Officer I

Jaemi grew up in Houston, TX and moved to Austin, TX in 2011 for school. She graduated from the University of Texas in 2015 with a degree in Nutrition. Go Longhorns! She has an identical twin sister who shows up to work for her sometimes. KIDDING! Jaemi has been blessed with a loving family. She does not have any pets at the moment but obsesses over everyone else's. Jaemi loves taking on new challenges and accomplishing them. She is excited to fulfill her new role as an Environmental Health Officer.



Nicole Kresse: Environmental Health Officer I

Nicole grew up in Queens, NY where she was a serious student and competitive athlete. She practiced a variety of sports such as gymnastics for 15 years, ice hockey, snowboarding and track and field. Upon graduating from Rutgers University with a Marketing degree in 2007 she pursued a career in animal welfare at the ASPCA. She worked her way into the veterinary field as a veterinary assistant and educator working for their mobile spay and neuter clinics and training technicians nationwide. When she moved to Austin in 2013 she began working at the Austin Animal Center, obtained a Veterinary Technology degree from Austin Community College in 2017 and became a Licensed Veterinary Technician. After 10 years of working in animal welfare she decided to pursue a career in Environmental Health. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her dog Gonzo, bicycling, camping and riding motorcycles with her friends.



Delencia McGraw: Customer Service Representative

Delencia is a native Austinite who loves to spend time with her family and travel. She has worked as a Customer Service Representative with Austin Energy since 2016, starting off as a contractor and becoming a permanent employee with City of Austin in March 2018. She started with the Austin Public Health Department as a Customer Service Representative in June of 2019 and is thankful for the opportunity. Delencia is still adjusting to her new journey of motherhood and work but enjoys every minute of it.



Nhien Nguyen: Environmental Health Officer II

Nhien graduated from the University of Houston in 2015 and started his food safety journey with Harris County Public Health in November 2015. He started his first day with Austin Public Health on July 22, 2019. Since then, he joined his very first softball team and played his very first official softball game. Nhien loves to play competitive games and compete in obstacle courses. Occasionally, Nhien Snapchats with his good boy puppy, Lucky.



Victor Solis: Customer Service Representative

Victor is originally from El Paso, Texas, the Sun City. He joined the Air Force and did a 6 year enlistment as an Avionic Systems Journeyman. Victor worked on F-15 Fighter Jets, A-10 Fighter Jets, and U-2 spy planes. During his time in the military, Victor got the chance to live in the U.K. for 3 years and then returned stateside to Florida. He achieved the rank of an NCO, SSGT and did two tours of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Once Victor separated from the military, he began working as a licensed Insurance Agent, living in the wonderful city of San Antonio (Puro SA) for 8 years. While living in San Antonio, Victor began attending the University of Texas in San Antonio for a Bachelor in Architecture. He eventually switched his major to International Relations, where he found his passion in helping his local community. He feels honored to use his experience in serving the City of Austin. His favorite activity is travelling, he likes rugby and as you can see hanging out with his pet, Gustav.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

For City of Austin Electronic Smoking Devices

CHAPTER 10-11



ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES (CHAPTER 10-11)

Electronic smoking devices are prohibited in all locations where smoking is currently prohibited: most public places and work places.

DEFINITION: ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICE means any product containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person to inhale or simulate smoking through the inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the product. The term includes any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, e-hookah, or vape pen, or under any other product name or descriptor, and any aerosol, liquid, or vapor used in such a device.

ENFORCEMENT POLICY:

- (A) The director of Austin Public Health Department and the police chief shall enforce this chapter.
- (B) The director and the police chief shall seek voluntary compliance with this chapter before taking action to enforce the chapter.
- (C) A member of the public may file a complaint in a form acceptable to the prosecuting attorney to enforce this chapter.



PENALTIES:

A person who violates this chapter commits a misdemeanor and shall be assessed a fine as follows:

- (1) not less than \$100 for a first conviction;
- (2) not less than \$200 for a second conviction within a 12-month period following the first conviction; and
- (3) not less than \$500 for a third or subsequent conviction

For more information on the City of Austin Code Chapter 10-11: Electronic Smoking Devices, click [HERE](#).



Aaron Urbanek Photo Credit

OFFICES CLOSED! Plan Accordingly. EHSD will be CLOSED on:

- * Monday, November 11 for Veterans' Day
- * Thursday and Friday, November 28 - 29 for Thanksgiving
- * Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 - 25 for Christmas
- * Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day



September is Food Safety Education Month!

Be a Food Safety Superhero!



CLEAN

WASH HANDS, UTENSILS, AND KITCHEN SURFACES OFTEN WHEN YOU COOK. GERMS ARE EVERYWHERE.

www.cdc.gov/foodsafety



SEPARATE

KEEP FRESH PRODUCE SEPARATE FROM RAW MEAT, POULTRY, SEAFOOD, AND EGGS. USE SEPARATE CUTTING BOARDS AND PLATES.

www.cdc.gov/foodsafety



COOK

ALWAYS USE A FOOD THERMOMETER TO KNOW WHEN FOOD IS SAFELY COOKED.

www.cdc.gov/foodsafety



CHILL

REFRIGERATE PERISHABLE FOOD AND LEFTOVERS WITHIN 2 HOURS. CHILL WITHIN 1 HOUR IF IT'S ABOVE 90°F.

www.cdc.gov/foodsafety



HEMP Related Information

From the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

On June 10, 2019, Governor Greg Abbott signed [House Bill 1325](#) into law, to allow for the production, manufacture, retail sale, and inspection of industrial hemp crops and products in Texas. This includes products for human consumption that may contain cannabidiol, also known as CBD, as well as certain other parts of the hemp plant.

HB 1325 requires the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to first file a state plan to monitor and regulate the production of hemp in Texas, and have that plan approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) before an agency can create the rules necessary to implement the rest of HB 1325.

For more information on the USDA process, visit the USDA [Hemp Production](#) and [Hemp Production Program](#) web pages. According to the USDA website, “it is USDA’s goal to issue regulations in the fall of 2019 to accommodate the 2020 planting season. As required by law, USDA is committed to completing its review of [state] plans within 60 days, once regulations are effective.”

The Texas DSHS will be working along with the TDA and Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to obtain required federal approvals and implement HB 1325.

What is a consumable hemp product?

A consumable hemp product is a food, drug, device, or cosmetic that contains industrial hemp or hemp-derived cannabinoids, including cannabidiol (CBD). These products may not contain more than 0.3 percent concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

What is DSHS required to do under HB 1325?

When the submitted TDA state plan is approved by USDA, HB 1325 requires DSHS to:

- Establish a manufacturing licensure program for consumable hemp products.
- Create a registration process for retailers selling consumable hemp products containing CBD.
- Work with DPS on random testing for consumable hemp products containing CBD sold at retail. Random testing will not occur until the retail registration process is established after the TDA state plan approval.

Implementation of HB 1325 will involve the development of rules, which will include a public input process. While DSHS rules development will begin before the TDA plan is approved, final rules cannot be completed until after the TDA state plan approval. Therefore, DSHS may only begin issuing licenses and accepting registrations after TDA's plan is approved by USDA and DSHS adopts rules consistent with the TDA approved plan. The approved plan may impact the implementation of HB 1325, including rules development.

What is DSHS' role?

DSHS has oversight of food, drug, cosmetics and dietary supplement manufacturers, distributors and retailers, including those that may use or market hemp or cannabidiol (CBD) as an ingredient in those products. Local jurisdictions may also regulate retail sales of food, drugs, cosmetics and dietary supplements, but may not prohibit the sale of consumable hemp products.

DSHS does not regulate an individual’s private possession or private use of any food, drug, cosmetic product or dietary supplement. Neither does DSHS administer the [Texas Compassionate Use Act](#).

For more information on Hemp from DSHS:

<https://dshs.texas.gov/consumerprotection/hemp-program/default.aspx>



KNOW YOUR PATHOGEN:

Texas Food Establishment Rules identifies 6 foodborne pathogens that require restriction or exclusion of food handling employees. These are Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*, Hepatitis A, Nontyphoidal *Salmonella*, Norovirus, [Shigella](#), and *Salmonella typhi*. The following information was collected from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to educate and prevent foodborne illnesses in the communities served by Austin Public Health.



Sources of Infection:

People who are sick with shigellosis have *Shigella* germs in their stool (poop) while they have diarrhea and for up to a week or two after the diarrhea has gone away. *Shigella* is very contagious; just a small amount of germs can make someone sick. People could get sick by:

- Getting *Shigella* germs on their hands and then touching their food or mouth. This may happen after:
 - Touching surfaces contaminated with germs from stool from a sick person, such as toys, bathroom fixtures, changing tables or diaper pails.
 - Changing the diaper of a sick child or caring for a sick person.
- Eating food that was prepared by someone who is sick with shigellosis.
 - Foods that are consumed raw are more likely to be contaminated with *Shigella* germs.
 - *Shigella* germs can contaminate fruits and vegetables if the fields where they grow contain human waste.
- Swallowing recreational water (for example, lake or river water) while swimming or drinking water that is contaminated with stool (poop) containing the germ.
- Having exposure to stool during sexual contact with someone who is sick or recently (several weeks) recovered from shigellosis.

Symptoms:

Symptoms usually last 5 to 7 days, but some people may experience symptoms anywhere from a few days to 4 or more weeks. In some cases, it may take several months before bowel habits (for example, how often someone passes stool and the consistency of their stool) are entirely normal. People who are sick from *Shigella* infection usually start experiencing symptoms 1 to 2 days after contact with the germ. Symptoms of shigellosis include:

- Diarrhea (sometimes bloody)
- Fever
- Stomach pain
- Feeling the need to pass stool [poop] even when the bowels are empty

Some people with shigellosis will not have any symptoms.

Diagnosis:

Many kinds of germs can cause diarrhea. Knowing which germ is causing an illness is important to help guide appropriate treatment. Healthcare providers can order laboratory tests to identify *Shigella* germs in the stool (poop) of someone who is sick.

Treatment:

Most people will recover from shigellosis without treatment in 5 to 7 days. People who have shigellosis should drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration. **People with shigellosis should not use anti-diarrheal medication**, such as loperamide (for example, Imodium) or diphenoxylate with atropine (for example, Lomotil). These medications may make symptoms worse. In some people, **bismuth subsalicylate** (for example, Pepto-Bismol) can help to relieve symptoms. Healthcare providers may prescribe antibiotics for some people who have severe cases of shigellosis.

When to Contact Your Doctor:

People with diarrhea should contact their healthcare provider if they have any of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Bloody diarrhea
- Severe stomach cramping or tenderness
- Dehydrated
- Feel very sick.

People who are in poor health or who have immune systems weakened from diseases such as HIV/AIDS, or chemotherapy for cancer, are more likely to get sick for a longer period of time if they have shigellosis. They should contact their healthcare provider if they think they have shigellosis to determine the best course of treatment.

HAPPY FALL

y'all!



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION CUSTOMER WALK IN HOURS
Lobby Hours Rutherford Lane Campus 1520 Rutherford Lane 7:45AM - 3:30PM Monday - Friday
One-Stop Shop 505 Barton Springs Road 8:00AM -12:00PM Monday - Friday
Mobile Vending Physical Permitting Inspections Rutherford Lane Campus
1520 Rutherford Lane 7:45 AM - 11:00AM Tuesday and Thursday



EHSD is partnering with Austin 3-1-1 to handle all citizen complaints and environmental investigations. To request services, get general assistance or submit a citizen complaint, dial 3-1-1 or 512-974-2000 if you are calling from outside the Austin service area.

If you feel an inspection issue or complaint investigation has not been satisfactorily addressed, or to speak with a manager regarding administrative issues, please call us directly at 512-978-0300 between the hours of 7:45AM - 4:45PM Monday - Friday.

Mailing Address: EHSD Post Office Box 142529, Austin, TX 78714

Physical Address: Rutherford Lane Campus 1520 Rutherford Lane Building 1 Suite 205 Austin, TX 78754

Email Address: EHSD.service@austintexas.gov

Web Address: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/environmental-health-services>

Feedback: Please complete our online survey to help us better serve our customers: www.surveymonkey.com/s/EHSDSurvey



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