

# Interim Guidance: Mobile Food Units at Rest Areas

## INFORMATION FOR THE MOBILE FOOD INDUSTRY AND REGULATORY AGENCIES

### Executive Order 20-49

[Executive Order 20-49: Allowing Commercial Food Trucks to Operate at Highway Rest Areas in Minnesota during the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency \(www.leg.state.mn.us/archive/execorders/20-49.pdf\)](http://www.leg.state.mn.us/archive/execorders/20-49.pdf) was issued May 1, 2020.

This order allows mobile food units to operate at designated highway rest areas in Minnesota. The following guidelines address operational questions related to this order.

#### Permit to operate at highway rest areas

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will be issuing temporary permits to commercially licensed mobile food units allowing them to operate at designated highway rest areas. Information about the permit program can be found on the MnDOT website: [Safety Rest Areas & Waysides \(www.dot.state.mn.us/restareas/index.html\)](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/restareas/index.html).

#### Licensed mobile food units and licensing jurisdiction

For the purpose of this Executive Order, a valid license from Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), or an MDH or MDA delegated agency will be honored, regardless of rest stop location. A Minnesota licensed mobile food unit will not be required to obtain additional licenses from state or local agencies in order to operate at the rest stops. The temporary permit from MnDOT will be the only additional requirement.

#### Inspections and complaints

Any necessary inspections and complaints regarding operation of the mobile food units will be referred to MDH or the delegated agency where the rest stop is located. If operational questions or problems arise, MDH and the delegated agency will coordinate to minimize duplication of efforts.

#### Seating

Mobile food units may not provide additional seating for customers. Existing seating at rest areas may be used if social distancing can be achieved.

#### Operating procedures

Executive Order 20-49 requires that all operators follow the guidance put forth by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration establishing best practices for food safety during the COVID-19 pandemic: [Best Practices for Retail Food Stores, Restaurants, and Food Pick-Up/Delivery Services During the COVID-](#)

[19 Pandemic \(www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/best-practices-retail-food-stores-restaurants-and-food-pick-up-delivery-services-during-covid-19\)](https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/best-practices-retail-food-stores-restaurants-and-food-pick-up-delivery-services-during-covid-19).

Safety measures intended to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 include:

- Following social distancing recommendations to keep at least 6 feet apart. Mobile food units may have to operate with a limited number of staff.
- Encouraging online and electronic payment transactions.
- Discontinuing offering self-serve condiments.
- Wearing a cloth mask or face covering.
- Ensuring customers practice social distancing while waiting. Use tape, chalk or other markings to indicate proper spacing while waiting in line.

All relevant provisions of the Minnesota Food Code must continue to be followed: [Minnesota Food Code, MN Rules 4626 \(www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4626/\)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4626/).

## Employee screening

It is recommended that you screen all employees prior to allowing them to enter your business. The following questions or the [Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhlthscreen.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhlthscreen.pdf) can be used to screen for COVID-19. If an employee says “**YES**” to either of these questions, **they should not report to work.**

1. Have you had close contact with someone who was diagnosed or suspected to have COVID-19 within the last 14 days?

Close contact means:

- A person has been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case or suspected COVID-19 case for a period of time. Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, or visiting with a COVID-19 case, OR
- A person has had direct contact with body fluids of a COVID-19 case or suspected case from being coughed on, while being intimate, or during any such situation involving direct contact.

2. Did you start to have ANY of the following in the last 7 days?

- Fever (100.4 degrees F or higher)
- Shortness of breath
- New muscle pain
- New sore throat
- New or increased cough
- Chills
- New headache
- New loss of taste or smell

## MOBILE FOOD UNITS AT REST AREAS

If an employee says “**YES**” to either of these questions, **they should not report to work**. Employees with symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath must **STAY HOME and NOT REPORT TO WORK** until:

- Respiratory symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath have improved **AND**
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **AND**
- Fever (100.4°F or higher) has been gone for at least 3 days without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

**Once all of these conditions are satisfied, the employee may return to work.**

### **Executive Order in effect through May 17, 2020, 11:59 p.m.**

This order is effective until May 17, 2020, 11:59 p.m., until it is rescinded, until the peacetime emergency in Executive Order 20-01 is terminated, or until the national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020, ends, whichever occurs sooner.

Because the COVID-19 pandemic is changing rapidly, it is important to keep up to date with new guidance. Please follow the most current information found on these websites:

[Minnesota Department of Health: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html)  
[www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html)

[U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)  
[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)

[U.S. Food and Drug Administration: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) – Food Products](http://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions#food)  
[www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions#food](http://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions#food)

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MAY 4, 2020

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