




Legal Concerns with Restaurants due to Covid-19

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Unintended Consequences

Executive Order 118 closed all in-door dining

- Outdoor seating was exempt in this order
- As a result dining rooms were moved to parking lots, side walks, front lawns, anywhere they could set up a table...
- Was this allowed as "outdoor dining"....??
- Who could enforce removal of these seats?
- Some jurisdictions had code enforcement, planning & zoning get involved

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Environmental Health — 1825 Hospital Drive Greenville, NC 27834 • 252-902-3200 • www.PittCountyNC.gov/EHD

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Unintended Consequences

Can't dine in, but how about take it home and cook it?

- Restaurants started selling raw meats out of the walk-in.
- Some restaurants prepared cook it yourself meal kits containing raw steaks and veggies. Who regulates this?
- Local EH, NCDA Meat & Poultry?
- Do these have meat labeling requirements?
- How do you inspect a closed facility taking orders thru Facebook or social media only?

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Unintended Consequences

Large amount of Internet Food Sales, who regulates this?

- Large amount of people continue to order online food items.
- Many of these food items are deemed "illegal" and counties are currently seeking legal remedies to bring them into compliance
- There are many jurisdictional questions that have to be answered.

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Unintended Consequences

Current Environmental Health work.

- Online food sales are the "supernova" of who this regulates zone.
- Pursuing legal remedies after determining jurisdiction over online and packaged food items of illegal food sales.
- How do we deal with "Cottage Industries"?
- Continued balance of education and regulation in an every increasingly angry client base.

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