

Guide for Food Vendors for Mesa County Events

Businesses who wish to serve food or beverages at events in Mesa County must be licensed through Mesa County Public Health and other regulatory authorities. Please complete a Temporary Event Vendor application each calendar year that you wish to participate in events in Mesa County.



Definitions

Commissary A commercial space that food vendors use as an operating base location for such things as refilling water tanks, dumping liquid or solid waste, storing food overnight, etc. Generally, this is a licensed, commercial kitchen.

Food Vendor Any operation that stores, prepares, serves, sells, or packages food or beverages for human consumption. A food vendor who only serves food at special events. Food service is not permitted at any other times.

Types of food vendor operations seen at special events.

- **Mobile Unit** A food operation that has wheels and sits upon at least one axle.
- **Tent and Table** A food service operation that is not on a mobile axle, and typically consists of a canopy with netting, folding tables, and more.
- **Cottage Food Vendor** A food service operation that is exempt from licensure as long as the conditions of the exemption are met. These vendors are not licensed by Mesa County Public Health.

Potable Water that is safe for human consumption.

Greywater Wastewater from food or beverage service operations that may contain fats, oils, greases, or cleaning chemicals.

Food Raw, cooked, or processed edible substance, ice, or beverage intended for human consumption.

Approved Vendors Vendors who have met all requirements by various City and County agencies submit their qualifications to the City of Grand Junction for review. Once reviewed and approved, the vendor will be listed on the City of Grand Junction's Parks and Recreation Department website. This program is not administered by Mesa County Public Health (MCPH). See the City of Grand Junction's website for more information.
<https://bit.ly/3XcFtfF>

Special Event All events open to the public that are held on public property such as in a park or on a street or sidewalk, including but not limited to farmers markets, music festivals, and community-based events.

Frequently Asked Questions

<p>Do I need to submit an application?</p>	<p>Mesa County Public Health Licensed Food Trucks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A valid Retail Food Establishment license from Mesa County Public Health serves as approval to participate in special events in Mesa County.• Your license does not allow you to set up additional kitchen operations outside of the unit.• However, all licensed mobile units are allowed up to one (1) external piece of covered cooking equipment (such as a covered grill or smoker) in Mesa County.• You must reach out to the City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department to become an eligible vendor for Special Events hosted on public property in Mesa County. <p>Colorado Licensed Food Trucks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you have a valid Colorado Retail Food Establishment license from another Colorado county, there is no required application.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Your license is only valid for the operations within your does not allow you to set up additional kitchen operations outside of the unit.◦ Mobile units licensed in Denver County must submit an application.• If you wish to operate as a “tent and table” or any other type of food service not within the scope of your issued license, additional licensure with a fee is required.• Verification of original licensed operation will be verified with the issuing county.• You must reach out to the City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department to become eligible for Special Events hosted on public property in Mesa County. <p>Mobile Units licensed outside of Colorado</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We do not accept retail food licenses outside of Colorado and a Temporary Event Vendor application must be completed to start the licensing process.• You must reach out to the City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department to become eligible for Special Events in Mesa County. <p>Tent and Table Food Service Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Temporary Event Vendor application must be completed.
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- You must reach out to the City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department to become eligible for Special Events in Mesa County.

Registered Manufactured Food Firms

- If you hold a manufactured or wholesale food registration from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) , a retail license may not be required.
- An application is required if samples will be served or if your food requires refrigeration.
 - A handwashing station will be required if serving samples.
- You must reach out to the City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department to become eligible for Special Events in Mesa County.

Cottage Foods Sales

- If you are operating under the Cottage Foods Act, no application is required. <https://bit.ly/3Axvoko>
- However, a menu review may be required to make sure your foods do fall within the Act.
- Ensure that you follow all of the Cottage Food Act rules and requirements.
- Keep your food safety training documentation and any pH testing information with you during events.
- You still must reach out to the City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department to become eligible for Special Events in Mesa County.

Meat Sales

- If you wish to sell raw meat at a special event, a temporary event vendor application must be submitted.
 - Depending on the scope of the operation, a limited or full service permit may be assessed.
- You must reach out to the City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department to become eligible for Special Events in Mesa County.

	<p>Produce Sales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vendors selling whole, raw, uncut produce do not need to complete an application • However, if you plan to cut produce, serve samples, roast chilis, or do anything more with your produce, you must complete a temporary event vendor application.
<p>How do I submit my application?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications must be submitted each calendar year. The application can be found on our website. https://bit.ly/3wR3vm5 • Applications should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than 14 calendar days before the first event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ During peak season from March to June, applications can take up to a month to approve. • You may not sell food until you have a valid license. The best way to submit your application is through email: environmental.health@mesacounty.us. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You may also mail us your application or drop it off at our office. See our website for mailing address and hours of operation.
<p>What do I need to include in my application?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A drawing or photo of your setup • Any applicable food licenses • Any Food Safety Certifications • A menu • A commissary agreement with the facility where you intend to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Obtain clean water ○ Dump wastewater ○ Store food ○ Prepare food ○ Wash and dry dishes • Mesa County Public Health cannot accept incomplete applications. • If a section does not apply to you, please write N/A. • If you do not know the answer to a question, please write "?".
<p>Do I need to submit any other paperwork?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All food vendors in Mesa County must also submit the Food Vendor Qualification Packet to the City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department prior to attending events. https://bit.ly/3yNs4Bi • This approval process ensures that all vendors in Mesa County are licensed with various entities, meet Fire Department Standards, and other requirements.

<p>What do I need the day of the event?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All vendors handling food (including scooping ice) must have a handwashing station equipped with free flowing water, a catch basin, soap, and paper towels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food operations cannot begin until a handwashing station has been adequately set up and hands have been washed. ○ Likewise, at any time during an event, food operations may be suspended if this requirement is not being met. ○ Make sure you have enough drinking water available for your volume of handwashing. ● Bare hand contact is not allowed in the State of Colorado. Vendors must use single use gloves, tongs, utensils, or other means to handle food. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If no gloves or other means of handling Ready-to-eat (RTE) Foods are on site at the time of inspection, further sale and vending of unpackaged foods will be suspended until this requirement can be met. ● A thermometer is required to measure food temperatures throughout the event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep cold foods at 41°F or below, and hot foods 135°F or greater. ● Food must be protected from environmental contamination at all times. Prepare for dust, wind, rain, and high temperatures. ● If dishes will be cleaned and sanitized onsite, test strips must be available and used. ● You can expect to see an inspector from Mesa County Public Health at some events. They will conduct an inspection to ensure operations are running safely.
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Still have questions?

Reach out to our Environmental Health Team:
By email: Environmental.health@mesacounty.us
By phone: 970-683-6630