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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Public Health and Human Services Adopts New Food Code**

**COLUMBIA, MO** - After being approved by Columbia City Council, the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) has adopted the 2009 FDA Food Code for use in all city and county food establishments. The changes will go into effect on June 1, 2014.

The Food Code is a model code and reference document for state, city, county, and tribal agencies that regulate restaurants, retail food stores, vending operations, foodservice operations in institutions such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and child care centers. The Food Code establishes practical, science-based guidelines and enforceable provisions for mitigating risk factors known to cause foodborne illness.

Changes in the code reflect a shift in what were previously considered non-critical violations in the 1999 Food Code, to items now listed as critical violations in the 2009 edition. Food establishments are expected to be in compliance with violations pertaining to hand washing, food displays, sanitizing solutions, cooling methods, cooling, heating, and hot holding capacities, and more.

To view the 2009 FDA Food Code and for more information regarding the updates, visit <a href="https://www.GoColumbiaMO.com/Health/Food\_Safety/Food\_Code/">www.GoColumbiaMO.com/Health/Food\_Safety/Food\_Code/</a> or call 573-874-7346.