

Bake Sale Guidelines

1. All foods offered for sale should be limited to items that are not readily perishable and to those foods not normally associated with food poisoning outbreaks.
2. Suggested “safe” foods for bake sales are cakes, cookies, brownies, popcorn, breads, rolls, confections, and fruit pies. Use only commercially prepared ingredients.
3. All items such as cream-filled pies, custard-type pies, egg and salad dishes, and meat dishes should not be offered through this type of sale because of their potential to cause food-borne illnesses.

Should your organization plan to serve these type products, you must consult your local health department of specific instructions regarding preparation, storage and display of these food items. It is advised that if multiple individuals are preparing items, that they all be prepared at one common kitchen. This allows the ability to track any food issues, should they arise.

Warning: Never offer for sale home-canned foods at bake sales. Eating improperly canned vegetables, fruits, meat, fish or poultry may cause botulism, a highly fatal poisoning.

Make sure all ingredients are in good condition and are from an approved commercial source. Use Grade “A” dairy products and eggs.

Follow these suggestions before beginning food preparation:

1. Make sure work surfaces are cleaned and sanitized prior to use. Foods contaminated by germs in your kitchen could make someone sick. Contact your local health department for instructions on sanitizing.
2. Remove all poisonous items such as insecticides, detergents, cleaners, polishers, etc. from preparation area to prevent accidental contamination.
3. Refrain from preparing or handling food items for sale if you are suffering from a cold or any other infections such as skin rashes on your hands or arms, infected cuts, burns, boils, etc. Your illness can easily be spread through food to other people.
4. Exercise extra care with good hygienic practices. Wash your hands frequently with warm soapy water, especially after visits to the restroom.