



# JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Franklin, Indiana 46131

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May 16, 2019

Dear Food Establishment Owner and/or Manager,

According to the Indiana Retail Food Establishment Sanitation Requirements, Title 410 IAC 7-24, there are certain situations which require immediate closure by the facility and/or local health department. The rule for closure reads as follows:

## **410 IAC 7-24-109 Ceasing operations, reporting, and resumption of operations**

**Sec. 109. (a) Except as specified in subsection (b), the owner or operator of the retail food establishment shall immediately discontinue operations and notify the regulatory authority if an imminent health hazard may exist because of an emergency, such as the following:**

- (1) Fire.**
  - (2) Flood.**
  - (3) An extended interruption of electrical or water service.**
  - (4) A sewage backup.**
  - (5) A misuse of poisonous or toxic materials.**
  - (6) An onset of an apparent foodborne illness outbreak.**
  - (7) A gross insanitary occurrence or condition.**
  - (8) Other circumstance that may endanger public health.**
- (b) The owner or operator of a retail food establishment need not discontinue operations in an area of an establishment that is unaffected by the imminent health hazard.**
- (c) If operations are discontinued as specified under this section or otherwise according to law, the retail food establishment shall obtain approval from the regulatory authority before resuming operations.**
- (d) For purposes of this section, a violation of subsection (a) is a critical item.**
- (e) For purposes of this section, a violation of subsection (b) or (c) is a noncritical item.**

The manager shall close the facility in the case of:

- Loss of water or electricity;
- Lack of hot water;
- Any sewage backup;
- Fire or discharge of the fire suppression system;
- Multiple reports of illness in a short or sudden period of time;
- Or any other situation which may be hazardous to the public.

The facility shall not reopen for business until approval is received by the food health inspector at the Johnson County Health Department.

**It has been brought to our attention that some facilities in the county are not aware of or following these procedures. Any facility found to be violating this rule may be subject to a fine. If, at any time, you have questions or are unsure whether or not to close the facility, please contact your health inspector or call the main line at the Johnson County Health Department.**

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Elizabeth Swearingen  
Director, Environmental Health Specialist  
Johnson County Health Department