



Guidelines for Facilities Electing to Self-Close

In response to the expanding outbreak of a severe acute respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19), food establishments may elect to temporarily self-close. While preparing a facility to close operations, the following guidelines should be followed.

SNHD Food Operations Guidelines for Facilities Electing to Self-Close:

- ✓ Prepared and opened time/temperature control for safety (TCS) foods may be kept for a maximum 7-day period at refrigerated temperatures of 41°F or below. TCS foods expected to expire during the closure should be discarded, donated, or removed from your food establishment prior to your facility closing.
- ✓ Refrigerated foods may be relocated to the freezer. Freezing food “stops time” for the 7-day use-by period. These foods must be clearly date labeled with the original date of preparation/opening, date frozen, and date moved back into refrigeration. Once thawed, these foods must be used or discarded within a total of 7 days under refrigeration including the days prior to freezing.
- ✓ Ensure all open food items are properly covered and stored at least 6 inches off the floor.
- ✓ To exclude pests, ensure all exterior openings to the facility are adequately sealed with no holes or gaps exceeding ¼” in floors, walls, and ceilings. Light should not be visible around exterior doors or openings.
- ✓ Leave the facility in a clean condition to prevent pest harborage and bacterial growth.
- ✓ Remove and properly dispose of all trash and recyclables.
- ✓ Designate a person to conduct equipment checks during the closure and to provide access for any routine pest control treatments or equipment maintenance that may be scheduled.
- ✓ Contact your inspector to notify them of the closure and to seek any additional guidance.

Prior to Re-opening:

- Ensure all items on the Re-Opening Check List found on the SNHD FERL website are verified. Your inspector may ask you to send them the completed checklist.
 - Issuing of Food Handler Safety Training Cards (health cards) are suspended until May 1, 2020 and will not be enforced during this time.
- Notify SNHD of the time and date of your planned re-opening by emailing your inspector or by calling 702-759-1110.
- It is very important to exclude employees with respiratory illness including symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Follow [CDC guidelines](#) when to exclude employees and when to allow employees exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19 to return to work.

Continue to enforce your employee health policy by excluding employees from work with foodborne illness related symptoms including vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat with fever, jaundice, and infected wounds on hands and arms.