

# Community Events Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What is a Community Event?

A Community Event is a public event where food is provided to the public and is conducted for not more than 25 consecutive or nonconsecutive days in a 90-day period and that is of a civic, political, public, or educational nature, including state and county fairs, city festivals, circuses, and other public gathering events approved by the Environmental Health Division.

## 2. What is a Temporary Food Facility (TFF)?

A TFF is a food facility that is permitted by the Environmental Health Division that operates at a fixed location for the duration of an approved community event. These commonly include food booths, food trucks, and food carts without a permit to operate in Los Angeles County.

## 3. Do I need a Public Health Permit for a Community Event?

Yes, a health permit is required if you plan to provide any food or beverage to the public as part of the event.

## 4. Does a community event need an event organizer?

Yes, a community event must have a community event organizer who is responsible for the facilities used by the public or shared by two or more food facilities and/or three or more food trucks. The community event organizer must apply and pay for a Community Event Organizer Permit and is responsible for ensuring that the event complies with the California Retail Food Code requirements.

## 5. My church/nonprofit organization has a pancake breakfast fundraiser once a month. Do we need a Public Health Permit?

No. The community event organizer and TFF permit are not required if a church or non-profit organization has an event which is **only** open to members and guests of members, and the event is held 3 days or less in a 90-day period. However, if the event is advertised to the general public or operates for more than 3 days, you must obtain a community event permit and TFF permits and comply with the California Retail Food Code requirements.

## 6. Are there other events that do not need a Public Health Permit?

Besides the exemption for churches, private clubs, or other nonprofit associations that gives or sells food to its members and guests, food facilities may be exempt from obtaining an additional health permit if participating in an event where the food facility (e.g., restaurant) gives or sells food at an event that does not occur for more than 3 days in a 90-day period for the benefit of a nonprofit association where the for-profit entity receives no monetary benefit, other than that resulting from recognition from participating in an event. Example: Taste of Events.

## 7. Can Public Health Permit fees be waived?

A health permit fee can only be waived for the following: a non-profit organization [501 (C) (3)] that is providing all food without a charge; Veterans exemption; or blind person as authorized



in Los Angeles County Code.

To apply for the exemption, complete and submit an Exemption Certificate for Community Events application to the Community Events Program. A Community Event Organizer or TFF vendor who is applying for the fee exemption must provide documents and tax I.D. as verification of their non-profit status. For a veteran operated food booth, a copy of the DD214 form must be submitted. Visit the Community Events [website](#) for more information.

**8. Can my nonprofit association advertise our event in the newspaper without getting a Public Health Permit?**

No. A community event advertised to the public with banners, newspaper articles, social media, website, or radio/television announcements is considered a public event and requires approval and permits.

**9. Does wine and beer tasting need a Public Health Permit?**

A permit is not required if the food booth is operated by a winegrower or brewery at an event organized by a non-profit organization. No sale of wine and beer are conducted from the food booth; however, pre-orders may be made for pick-up and payment at the winery or brewery. Only crackers, pretzels, or prepackaged food that is not potentially hazardous food is offered for sale or for onsite consumption. No food is served, sampled, or sold by the winegrower or brewery. There is no sharing of glassware between consumers.

However, if the winegrower or brewery operates a food booth and sells beverages or the event is not organized by a non-profit organization, a permit is required.

**10. What permit type do I need if I am selling alcohol beverages at a community event?**

- Vendors selling/serving mixed cocktails, including alcohol beverages with ice and/or garnishes, are required to obtain a TFF – Food Preparation Food Booth permit.
- Vendors selling/serving various beer/wine directly from the bottle or keg through “open/pour and serve” (from a can/bottle/keg) must obtain a TFF – Prepackaged Food Booth permit.

**11. There will only be one food booth at a community event. Do we need permits for both the community event organizer and the food booth?**

No, you will only need to obtain a permit for the food booth. The organizer and TFF applications must be submitted for the event, but only the food booth fee is required.

**12. I have a permitted food truck/cart. Do I need a permit to operate at a community event?**

It depends. If you have a current Los Angeles County Public Health Permit (PHP) for your mobile food facility, you do not need a separate permit. You can operate at a community event as long as you follow normal operating requirements, and the community event organizer includes your food cart or food truck on their application and plot plan.

A mobile food facility that does not have a current Los Angeles County permit must obtain a temporary food facility permit for their type of operation. Food trucks and food carts that are not permitted by Los Angeles County or another health agency in California must follow procedures for sanitizing the potable water holding tank on their food truck.



**13. What will happen if I don't pay, and I am found operating without a health permit at a community event?**

All food facilities must obtain a valid health permit prior to operating at a community event. A facility or a food booth found operating without a valid health permit will be subject to immediate closure until a health permit is obtained and may be charged up to three times the health permit fee in addition to the original cost of the health permit.

**14. Can I share a booth with another food operator and obtain one permit to lower our expenses?**

No. A permit is limited to one person, business, and/or organization. Each food operator is required to have their own health permit to operate. Public Health does not allow the consolidation of food operations or sharing of a food booth for the purpose of obtaining a single permit.

**15. Can I host my own Temporary Event to set up my booth and sell my product?**

To host a temporary event, the event must first meet the definition of a community event as established in the California Retail Food Code (CalCode) and be an event that is civic, political, public, or educational in nature, including state and county fairs, city festival, circuses, and other public gathering events approved by the local enforcement agency. If the event meets this definition, then the organizer of the event must obtain an event organizer and temporary food facility permit. An event organizer permit fee is required for events with two or more food booths/vendors participating. For events that have only one food booth/vendor, no additional organizer fee is required. You will only be charged the permit fee for the temporary food facility permit. However, both organizer and TFF applications must be submitted for review and approval.

**16. Is there a deadline to apply for a Community Event?**

Yes, the completed application and application fees must be submitted no less than 14 days prior to the Community Event. A late fee of \$50 or 25% of the permit fee, whichever is greater, will be applied for applications submitted less than 14 days prior to the event. Applications submitted less than 3 business days before the event will not be accepted and processed.

**17. Can I sell home prepared food or beverages at a Community Event?**

Yes, but only if you have a Public Health Permit as a Cottage Food Operator and can only sell foods that you are approved to prepare. A TFF permit is required for each event you operate at.

**18. What are the fees to obtain a Community Event health permit?**

Below are fees for Community Events operating up to 25 days in a 90-day period:

Event Organizer	\$358.00
Food Demonstrator, no food sales	\$59.00
Prepackaged TFF	\$82.00
Prepackaged with Sampling, TFF	\$116.00
Food Preparation TFF	\$184.00

Annual fees for Food Booths operating at a Community Event at a single location, such as in conjunction with a Certified Farmers' Market:

Prepackaged TFF	\$164.00
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Prepackaged with Sampling TFF  
Food Preparation TFF

\$209.00  
\$507.00

### 19. What kind of sink(s) do I need to operate at a community event?

It all depends on the type of food booth that will be operated.

- A 3-compartment warewashing sink with dual drainboards, and overhead protection is required when food booths are preparing food onsite. Depending on the length of the event and the number of food booths, warewashing sinks may not be required. Please contact the Community Events team to find out what is required for your event.
- A hand washing sink is required for all food booths that handle open food within their operating area. The hand sink must be supplied with warm water, a pump soap dispenser and single-use paper towels. For events of three days or less a gravity-fed container (with a catch basin) that can provide a continuous stream of warm water (100 °F) may be used in place of a portable sink.
- All food employee restrooms must have adjacent handwashing sinks.

### 20. Can food employee toilet facilities be shared with the public?

No, the public cannot share the same toilet facilities with food employee(s). Toilet facilities for food employees must be separated from the toilet facilities for the public/event goers.

- One (1) toilet for each 15 food employees is located within 200 feet of each TFF and one (1) hand washing sink with warm water (100F), liquid soap, single use towels, and a trash container for towel waste is available for every toilet.
- Adequate toilet facilities (permanent or portable) are available for public use. One hand washing sink is available for every four (4) toilets. Sinks are stocked with liquid soap, single use towels, and a trash container for towel waste.

To learn more about Community Events, please visit the [website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the Community Events Program at (626) 430-5320 or by email at [communityevents@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:communityevents@ph.lacounty.gov)

