

DineSafe Lambton

Frequently Asked Questions

What is *DineSafe Lambton*?

DineSafe Lambton is the new food safety inspection disclosure program being introduced in Lambton County. It is designed to give the public quick and easy access to the results of food safety inspections.

What are the benefits of the *DineSafe Lambton* disclosure program?

- Helps reduce the risk of foodborne illness.
- Helps improve food safety standards.
- Increases compliance with legislation.
- Increases public access to inspection results.

When will *DineSafe Lambton* start?

Phase 1: October 1, 2010 - Coloured *DineSafe Lambton* inspection summary signs will be required to be posted at the entrance of food establishments as per County of Lambton By-Law No. 30 of 2010.

Phase 2: May 1, 2011 - Summary inspection results for all food establishments in Lambton County will be made available online on the public health website. Mandatory food handler certification requirements will come into effect.

What do the coloured signs mean?

- Green = PASS
- Yellow = CONDITIONAL PASS
- Red = CLOSED

What do green (Pass) signs mean?

This sign indicates substantial compliance with the Ontario Food Premises Regulation.

What do yellow (Conditional Pass) signs mean?

This sign indicates significant non-compliance with the Ontario Food Premises Regulation, which may affect food safety.

What do red (Closed) signs mean?

This sign indicates conditions represent an immediate health hazard to the general public.

How is the sign colour determined for each food premise?

Public health inspectors inspect all food establishments to assess whether the operation meets the requirements of the Food Premises Regulation.

The Public Health Inspector inputs the findings of each of their inspections into an electronic database that contains a scoring system. Each requirement listed in the *Food Safety Inspection Report* is assigned a value (weight), based on the potential to cause food-borne illness. The overall score for each food safety inspection will be based on the total number and type of infractions observed at the time of the inspection. The overall score determines whether a green, yellow or red sign is posted.

Will all food establishments be required to post the *DineSafe Lambton* inspection summary signs?

All food establishments inspected by the Lambton Public Health (LPH) will be required to post signs that reflect their most recent inspection results.

The types of food establishments inspected by LPH include:

- General food service establishments (e.g. restaurants/bars, cafeterias, delicatessens, butcher shops, grocery stores, banquet halls, catering kitchens, etc.)

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- Institutional food service establishments (e.g. hospitals, school cafeterias, nursing homes, licensed childcare centre kitchens, boarding houses with 10 or more residents, etc.)
- Mobile food service premises (e.g. hot dog carts, catering vehicles, French fry trucks)

The *DineSafe Lambton* program **does not** apply to certain community special events (e.g. religious suppers, fairs, etc.), private residences or dwellings, farmers' markets, farm gate sales, or other similar food establishments.

Where will the sign be posted?

The coloured sign is required to be posted and maintained at all times in a sign holder in a clearly visible and conspicuous location at the public entrance of the food establishment.

If my food establishment receives a yellow (CONDITIONAL PASS) sign, what happens next?

A re-inspection will take place within 72 hours (3 business days). The operator is responsible for keeping the yellow sign posted until a re-inspection is conducted and a public health inspector provides a replacement sign. If all infractions have been corrected, the yellow sign will be replaced with a green (PASS) sign. If infractions remain outstanding, another yellow sign may be issued, and further re-inspections will be conducted. In addition, LPH may take legal action for any outstanding infractions.

What am I required to do if my food establishment receives a red (CLOSED) sign?

- Immediately close the food establishment and stop preparing, serving, and/or selling food to the public.
- Immediately post the red (CLOSED) sign at the front entrance of the food establishment.
- Correct the conditions listed on the Closure Order to eliminate the health hazard.

- Contact the public health inspector for a re-inspection of the corrected conditions outlined in the Closure Order.
- The Operator is responsible for keeping the establishment closed and keeping the CLOSED sign posted until a public health inspector issues a replacement sign. The inspector will rescind the Order and replace the red CLOSED sign with a green PASS sign only when he/she is satisfied that the health hazard has been eliminated as outlined in the Order. If the infractions have not been corrected, the red CLOSED sign will not be removed, and the establishment must remain closed. Failure to comply with an Order to close may lead to legal action.

What happens if my sign gets damaged or goes missing?

In the event that a summary sign or sign holder is damaged or goes missing, operators must notify LPH at 519-383-8331 immediately so that a replacement sign can be issued.

What are the new mandatory food handler certification requirements?

On May 1, 2011 the mandatory food handler certification requirements will take effect as per By-Law No. 30 of 2010.

All operators of high risk food establishments and medium risk food establishments will be required to ensure that there is, at all times when the establishment is operating, at least one (1) holder of a valid Food Handler Training Certificate supervising the preparation, processing, packaging, service and storage of food.

How can I get food inspection results online?

In May 2011, summary inspection results for all food establishments in Lambton County were made available online at www.dinesafelambton.com.