

52 Weeks to Health: Keeping Your Fair Food Safe!



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Food Safety Team in Action at the Kentucky State Fair

52 Weeks of Public Health Campaign Spotlight: Keeping your Fair Food Safe

FRANKFORT, Ky. (August 23, 2017) – As part of the 52 Weeks of Public Health campaign, the Kentucky Department of Public Health (DPH) within the Cabinet of Health and Family Services (CHFS) highlights the lifesaving work of the DPH Food Safety Team. The busiest time of year for the team is the Kentucky State Fair where more than 600,000 people converge on Louisville, Kentucky, to join in on the agricultural contests, fun, and most importantly the food.

As you Chow down on that donut burger, pork chop sandwich, and more on the menu you can rest assured that the Leslie Cobb and her team at the DPH Food Safety Branch have been on the scene first to make sure that all the food is safe to eat.

“Although the American food supply is among the safest in the world, the CDC estimates that one in six Americans become ill from food borne illnesses each year,” said Leslie Cobb. “When health inspectors do their work at the state fair, we are working behind the scenes. In fact, the general public probably won’t even notice that we’re out there inspecting.”

Each day of the 11-day run of the Kentucky State Fair, 10 to 14 health inspectors monitor 173 food vendors. They look for risk factors that can make someone ill. “At the top of the list is hygiene; proper handwashing, washing hands before putting on gloves. Inspectors make sure the food is kept at the proper temperatures and in the proper storage places, meaning up off the ground, up off the floor and safely away from chemicals.”, said Leslie Cobb. The team makes sure there is proper water for cleaning hands and equipment, proper food standard hoses, not garden hoses to use the water, and proper water disposal.

“The Health Inspectors job here at the state fair is to make sure all this delicious food is safe, please come on down and enjoy the Kentucky State Fair.” Says Leslie Cobb.

A video of the Health Inspector is available here for your free and unrestricted use.

<https://youtu.be/qWEZMc21iOo>

Throughout the planned 52 Weeks of Public Health promotion, DPH will spotlight a specific public health issue. Additional information about the campaign is available on the DPH website:

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/default.htm> and will be posted on the CHFS Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/kychfs> where Kentuckians are encouraged to like and share posts among their networks of friends.