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INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR CHARITABLE FOOD DISTRIBUTION EVENTS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been required based on local and state health orders to limit temporary food events to reduce the spread of COVID 19, while allowing certain essential services to continue following guidelines to reduce that risk while still providing services to the community.

Charitable events that are conducted solely for the distribution of food **free of charge** to those in need are considered essential services and a benefit to our community. Proposed events shall meet the following guidelines:

1. **Charitable Status:**
 - The event involves charitable giving/feeding at no cost and free of charge. Fundraisers are not approved for this type of event.
 - The event applicant/coordinator must be an IRS 501 (3) (C) non-profit organization and the event is not for profit.
2. **Food Distribution:**
 - **Food items must only be distributed outdoors.**
 - Only pick up or to go distribution of items. No **onsite** consumption of food is permitted.
 - Prepared foods must be in to go containers ready for pick-up.
3. **Food Preparation:** Food preparation should be done in a permitted food facility, a fixed facility or temporary structure to prepare the food (e.g. church, clubhouse or community center kitchens or tent/booth structure that meets health and safety guidelines).
4. **COVID Safety:** The event organizer must have a COVID -19 safety plan in place to include monitoring or methods to prevent crowds and maintain social distancing, facial coverings and hand sanitizer requirements. Recommendations include:
 - Provide signage at the entrance and visible areas regarding COVID -19 safety requirements.
 - Use drive through to where the public stays in their vehicle.
 - Set up appointments or other methods to minimize gathering and reduce the number of people coming at the same time.

In addition, please follow the county Health Officer Orders at <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/>.

If you have any questions regarding these types of events, please contact Environmental Health at (925)-608-5500.

