

Food News

The Minneapolis Health Department is committed to partnering with our businesses to provide information and support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Do you have food to donate?

The unprecedented closure of dine-in food service has some businesses looking for ways to donate food before it spoils.

Where to donate food

Two programs collecting perishable food are:

- [Minnesota's Central Kitchen](#)
- Second Harvest Heartland's [Meal Connect](#)

Minnesota's Central Kitchen

Minnesota's Central Kitchen is a new partnership by [Chowgirls Killer Catering](#), [Second Harvest Heartland](#) and [Loaves and Fishes](#) to feed members of the community who are experiencing hunger. Other restaurants helping with these efforts are [Restaurant Alma](#) and [The Bachelor Farmer](#) with more to come.

Chowgirls has offered up their kitchen to cook and package the meals and Loaves and Fishes is packing up and serving these meals.

“In this time of uncertainty, the basic human need of being fed has come to the forefront of this crisis. Chowgirls is honored to partner with Second Harvest Heartland to turn our space into Minnesota Central Kitchen. We will be reaching out to our food and hospitality industry friends to help us donate food, volunteers to help prepare meals and use their talents to feed our community. I have been amazed with the outpour of support already and feel privileged to be a part of this amazing effort.”

Liz Mullen, Executive Chef, Chowgirls

- Food operators and food distributors with perishable product to donate should visit www.MealConnect.org. You will be asked to create an account and post your product as a donation. Meal Connect has transportation logistics in place to collect and deliver to a partner kitchen.

- Food service professionals who want to volunteer their time and cooking expertise should express their interest with an email to volunteer@chowgirls.net.
- Restaurants who are interested in opening their kitchen up as partner kitchen should email ejpaul9@gmail.com.
- Businesses that want to donate packaging, cleaning/sanitizing supplies and other non-food items should email donations@chowgirls.net.

Meal Connect

Meal Connect is an online platform for food donations from restaurants, food distributors, caterers, special event centers, corporate cafeterias and other commercial food preparers to those in need.

- Visit www.MealConnect.org to get started. Create an account and post your product. Meal Connect has transportation logistics in place to collect and deliver to a partner kitchen.
- Loaves and Fishes also accepts food donations through Meal Connect. To learn more visit [Second Harvest Heartland](#) and [Loaves and Fishes](#).

Food safety when donating food

Find tips on how to keep the food you donate safe in the [Food Donation brochure](#).

Use the [Food Donation Tracking form](#) when you donate food.

You are protected and may qualify for a tax deduction

Businesses that donate food in good faith to a nonprofit for distribution to needy individuals are protected by the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Act.

The federal tax code allows a deduction for donated food.

Visit the [Minneapolis Food Donation](#) web page for more information.

Questions?

Email your health-related questions to COVID19@minneapolisismn.gov

Visit www.minneapolisismn.gov/coronavirus to find more information.

Put your business on the map of free meals for kids

Is your restaurant offering free meals for kids during COVID-19? Submit your information to the Hunger Solutions [map of Meals for Kids](#) during COVID-19 school closures.

About this newsletter: Environmental Health eNews is published by the City of Minneapolis Environmental Health. If you have questions, please contact Minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov.

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