



# LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

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**PRESS RELEASE  
December 10, 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Free Training Available to Community Event Planners**

Contact: Laurel Riek, Environmental Health Specialist, Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department, 447-8361, [lriek@co.lewis-clark.mt.us](mailto:lriek@co.lewis-clark.mt.us)

Helena—The Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department will provide free training to anyone planning to serve food at a community event this holiday season. To prevent food borne illness, state law requires that everyone who serves food to the public obtain a permit. This permit and training are free for nonprofit groups, fundraising events, or anyone serving food to the public at a short-term event. Please contact Laurel Riek at 443-2584, or email [lriek@co.lewis-clark.mt.us](mailto:lriek@co.lewis-clark.mt.us) to request a Special Event Permit.

It can be challenging to safely prepare and store large quantities of food for large groups. Yet food that is mishandled can cause food borne illness, including vomiting, diarrhea, stomach cramps, and fever. It can cause more serious conditions in infants, children, pregnant women, elderly, and immune compromised people. Health Department staff can help by evaluating menus and food preparation plans and providing tips on safe food handling. This food safety education can help ensure that the generosity and goodwill of the holiday season do not lead to an outbreak of illness.

*The Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department's mission is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis & Clark County residents.*

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