AB 626
Homemade Food Operations Act
Law is Effective January 1, 2019

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW . . .

Legalizes microenterprise home kitchen operation (MHKO), when authorized by the local governing body, and requires them to be inspected and permitted.

Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MHKO)

A MHKO is a small business (defined as no more than $50,000 in annual sales) which prepares food in a home kitchen and sells directly to consumers.

The law outlines specific limitations for these businesses including:

- Maximum of 30 meals per day and 60 per week;
- same-day preparation and sale; and
- sold either directly to the consumer or via an internet or mobile application intermediary.

Permitting Oversight

MHKO oversight includes:

- the review of a permit application;
- food to be prepared;
- days and times of operation;
- methods and procedures of food handling;
- how safe food temperatures are maintained; and
- cleaning and refuse disposal procedures.

Preparing the County for AB 626

- An AB 626 Ad-Hoc Committee is working with the bill’s author to clarify legislative language defining the role of the local enforcing agency and a city’s authority.
- Environmental Health is developing protocols for staff to effectively support applicants.
- AB 626 will return to the Board for approval to implement and to establish a reasonable administrative fee.

Cities must opt in or opt out of AB 626 in order to apply new law locally.

Permits will have a reasonable administrative fee.

Permit will be administered by Public Health’s Division of Environmental Health

For more information contact the Imperial County Public Health Department’s Division of Environmental Health (442) 265-1888.

Revised 12/18/2018