



MICROENTERPRISE HOME KITCHEN OPERATION (MEHKO)

A **Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO)** is a new type of food facility, which has been permitted by Imperial County Environmental Health to be operated in a private home. Below are quick facts about the MEHKO requirements, limitations, and how to get started:

MEHKO Requirements

- A permit issued from Imperial County Environmental Health must be obtained prior to operating a MEHKO.
- No more than **one** full-time food employee, (not including a family member or household member) may work at the MEHKO.
- The MEHKO operator shall successfully pass an approved and accredited food safety manager certification examination. Also, any person(s) involved with the MEHKO must obtain a food handler certificate and an Imperial County Health card.
- Food shall be prepared, cooked, and served on the same day.
- People can dine at your home or take out.

MEHKO Limitations

- Only **one** MEHKO is permitted per site. The operator must be the resident of the home.
- Food preparation is limited to a maximum of 30 meals per day or 90 meals per week, with an annual sales cap of \$100,000.
- No signage or other outdoor displays for advertising are allowed.
- Food from a MEHKO cannot be sold to other food facilities for resale or be sold from a vehicle.
- Only an employee of the MEHKO, or a family member may deliver to the consumer.
- MEHKOs may not produce, serve, or use raw milk, serve raw oysters, or any food that would require a HACCP plan.

HOW to OPEN a MEHKO

- 1) Submit a) the complete Food Facility Health Permit Application, b) the Standard Operating Procedures, c) the menu and d) a picture identification with the MEHKO home address.
- 2) Schedule an inspection with an Environmental Health Specialist.
- 3) Once all of the above documents have been reviewed and approved by this department, the home inspection is completed, and fees are paid, the health permit to operate a MEHKO may be obtained. *Please note: The permit fee will be determined based on time and material.

For more information, please contact Imperial County Public Health, Division of Environmental Health at (442) 265-1888 or visit our website at www.icphd.org.

