

July 30, 2021

Dear food premises owners/operators,

As more settings re-open and continue to recover from the pandemic, you are receiving this letter to inform you that Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is resuming unannounced, routine compliance inspections at food premises to support staff and patron health and safety. As capacity allows, a Public Health Inspector (PHI) will work collaboratively with you during an inspection and continue to prioritize education, as well as safe food handling practices, to reduce the risks of foodborne illness.

Any food premises staff who handles or prepares food on site are expected to comply with [Ontario Food Premises Regulation 493/17](#). Please note: every operator of a food premises must ensure that there is at least one food handler or supervisor on site who has completed food handler training during all hours of operation.

To ensure risks are reduced as much as possible, all PHIs are required to complete a COVID-19 screening prior to reporting to work each day and are also expected to avail themselves to facility screening, as would any contractor or visitor to your site. PHIs will have City of Ottawa/OPH identification, will wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and will follow COVID-19 precautions - including maintaining physical distancing throughout their inspection.

While the PHI on-site can answer many of your questions related to COVID-19 and infection prevention and control best practices/requirements, additional sources for COVID-19 information include:

Additional sources for COVID-19 information, as it related to food premises, include:

- OPH's [Business and Workplace](#) web page
- OttawaPublicHealth.ca

Additional information, including owner/operator responsibilities and links to OPH's inspection disclosure website, is also available on [OPH's Food Safety Program's](#) web page.

If you have any questions related the resumption of compliance inspections, please contact healthsante@ottawa.ca or 613-580-6744; press 5 to speak to a Public Health Inspector.

Thank you for your on-going commitment to prioritizing the health and safety of our community.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Downey
Program Manager, Public Health Inspection