



Division of Food and Recreational Safety

Guidelines to Help Restaurants Donate Food to Pantries, Shelters

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) wants to provide you additional guidance on Gov. Tony Evers' [emergency order](#) limiting public gatherings to fewer than 10 people.

A common question: **How do I safely donate food from my restaurant?** Some guidance:

Donation to a food pantry:

- Licensed restaurants may donate unused foods that originate from an approved source.
- Food items must be prepackaged and in their original container.
- With the exception of fruits and vegetables, no perishable items may be donated.
- The food may not go back into commerce to be sold to the consumer.

Donation to a shelter:

- Donated time-temperature control food must remain under temperature control. Cold foods shall be held at 41 degrees or below, and hot foods held at 135 degrees or above.
- Freeze perishable food before donating, if possible.

- Ready-to-eat foods must be date-marked with a consume-by date, not exceeding an overall hold time of seven days.
- Ideally, the food will be in an original container or labeled with allergen information.
- The food may not go back into commerce to be sold to the consumer.

This order remains in effect for the duration of the public health emergency declared in [Order No. 72](#), or until a superseding order is issued.

Helpful Resources

The [State of Wisconsin created a webpage](#) that offers resources from various agencies and answers to critical questions. Here are a few other resources from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) that might be helpful during this challenging time:

- [COVID-19 Information](#)
- [COVID-19 Facts: Why Social Distancing](#)
- [COVID-19 Facts: Protect Your Family](#)

Thank you for your role in keeping Wisconsinites safe by reducing the spread of COVID-19. If you have questions for DATCP, please send them to datcpdfsrretail@wisconsin.gov.

