

## Unlicensed Food Vendor Talking Points

1. The Minneapolis Health Department is working to educate unlicensed food vendors in our city.
  - Our inspectors are handing out a letter letting vendors know what is needed to legally sell food.
  - We are working with Catholic Churches to host classes about food safety and licensing requirements.
  - We have received a grant to help vendors purchase equipment to help lower the cost barrier to legally sell food.
2. Selling of unlicensed food in specific areas is a Public Safety issue
  - We are concerned for the safety of unlicensed food vendors who are walking in the streets, between traffic to sell their food.
  - A person walking in traffic risks getting hit and injured by a vehicle or worse. Drivers could hit a person or swerve to avoid a person in the street and be involved in a crash.
  - It is illegal for pedestrians to sell on the street – food or other items
3. The selling of unlicensed food is a Public Health concern
  - It is illegal to sell food in public without a license or permit.
  - Eating food sold by someone without a license or permit can be risky. The risk of getting sick becomes much higher if you purchase from an unlicensed vendor.
  - If not prepared and stored properly, cut produce can contain harmful germs that can make you and your family sick.
    - Eating raw or undercooked meat and poultry can also make you sick.
  - Licensed food vendors are trained in food safety and have equipment to prevent foodborne illnesses.

### **Tracking foodborne illness**

As unlicensed food vendors move around and don't register where they are selling, tracking where a foodborne illness started or spread is difficult. Anyone who believes they became ill from eating at an unlicensed street food vendor can call 1-877-FOOD-ILL