

Residents can serve food at Potlucks without needing to receive any permits from ISD Health. Potluck events may be sponsored by local community groups, churches and charitable organizations and can take place in private homes, at community block parties, in public parks or in other public spaces.

What is Considered a Potluck Event?

Potluck events are held when residents gather to share food for social purposes only. Food cannot be sold at a Potluck, but donations can be collected to support charitable, religious or nonprofit organizations. All of the following conditions must be met for an event to be considered a “potluck event”.

- No compensation may be provided for bringing food to the event
- The event is sponsored by a group of individuals or by a religious, charitable or nonprofit organization
- The event can not be conducted for commercial purposes however, money may be collected to support the religious, charitable or non-profit organization
- The participants at the event must be informed that neither the food nor the facilities have been inspected by the state or the local public health agency.

For additional information on food safety tips for Potluck events, consult the USDA’s publication *Cooking for Groups; A Volunteers Guide to Food Safety*

For more information regarding safe food handling practices please call (617)635-5326 or email ISDHealth@boston.gov