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Albany County Restaurants Display Health Inspection Results

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Pertussis (Whooping Cough) – What You Need To Know

Pertussis (whooping cough) is very contagious and can cause serious illness and occasionally death — especially in infants who are too young to be fully vaccinated. Vaccination is the best way to prevent pertussis. In addition to routine childhood vaccination, it is recommended that teens and adults, including pregnant women, get a booster dose since they may no longer be immune. This can protect themselves and the infants they care for.



When eating out, you trust food service establishments with your well-being, believing that they will handle your food with care and comply with health and safety codes. As of July 1, 2012 Albany County restaurants are required to post a prominent sign near the front entrance displaying the results of county health inspections.

Ratings of excellent, good, fair or unsatisfactory will soon be visible at every restaurant in Albany County where customers can easily see them. Restaurants that receive an "unsatisfactory" rating must voluntarily close immediately to remedy health violations and will be reinspected within days.

Inspection criteria, guided by state law, have not changed, and results have been available for years on the county's website. Albany County Department of Health restaurant inspectors will now use a new rating matrix that takes into account the number of "blue" (minor) and "red" (serious) violations a restaurant receives to determine the final rating. Blue violations, which can be as mundane as food containers not stored sufficiently off the ground, are not deemed a danger to public health but must be remedied. Red violations are for critical conditions that could result in sickening customers or employees and must be taken care of as soon as possible.

It will take until mid-2013 before the county's inspectors assign ratings to all of the nearly 1,600 restaurants in the county covered by the inspection rules. Other facilities, including mobile vendors, temporary food sellers at festivals and fairs, and children's camps, are not required to post results of their inspections.

Although the law allows fines up to \$2,000, the maximum under state law, in practice the fines, starting at \$100, will be assessed based upon the seriousness of the violation and the number of times a critical violation has been repeated.

Albany County and New York City are the only municipalities statewide that require on-premises public display of health inspections, although it is mandated elsewhere in the country.

NOTICE OF INSPECTION
ALBANY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Division of Environmental Health
175 Green Street, Albany, NY 12202

FACILITY NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

An inspection of this establishment was made today for compliance with provisions of Subpart 14-1 of the New York State Sanitary Code. The results of the inspection are:

Sanitary Inspection Results

EXCELLENT COMPLIANCE
Inspection revealed minimal or no deficiencies.

GOOD COMPLIANCE
Inspection revealed several deficiencies. Appropriate corrective action was taken or will be taken on an approved timeline.

FAIR COMPLIANCE
Inspection revealed numerous deficiencies. Immediate corrective action was taken. Other corrective action will be taken on an approved timeline. More frequent inspections will be necessary.

Facility Representative's NAME/TITLE (Please Print) _____
Facility Representative's SIGNATURE _____
INSPECTOR'S Initials _____ Date _____

*All critical deficiencies in sanitation or food safety must be corrected immediately and may result in legal action. The Albany County Board of Health Resolution requires a Food Service Establishment to post a copy of the results of its most recent "Notice of Inspection" in a conspicuous location near the main entrance to the establishment. Complete inspection results are also posted on the Albany County website: www.albanycounty.com. Questions about the inspection or inspection process may be addressed by calling 518-447-4620.

PLEDGE to PREPARE

What would you do in an emergency if you only had moments to evacuate your home? Do you have the essentials needed to get through at least three days without access to food, water or power? Do you have a plan in place if you are separated from your family in an emergency situation? Does your plan include your pets?

The Albany County Department of Health encourages families, businesses, schools, communities and organizations to take the following steps to ensure that our families, homes, workplaces and communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies of all kinds.

Create an Emergency Kit

Families should have at least one emergency kit in their home. At the bare minimum, this kit should include a three-day supply of water and non-perishable food. The kit should also have a first aid kit, a flashlight, a battery-operated radio, a whistle, dust masks, plastic bags and toilet paper along with a wrench in case you have to turn your utilities off.

Make an Emergency Plan

Families should take the time necessary to make an emergency plan. Where would you and your loved ones meet if a disaster struck and you were not all together? What if your cell phones didn't work? Determining a pre-designated location to gather will ensure that you and your family can reunite during and after a disaster.

Be Informed

The Northeast is prone to severe winter weather and as a result, frequent power outages. Be familiar with the hazards that could impact your community. Americans also travel more than ever before and people may be in areas impacted by unfamiliar hazards. Knowing what to do before, during and after an emergency is a critical part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.



Get Involved

There are many ways to get involved, especially before a disaster occurs. The entire community can participate in programs and activities to make their families, homes and neighborhoods safer from risks and threats. How can you help to prepare your community in the event of a disaster? Take a first aid or CPR course. Donate food or used clothing to local charity organizations. Albany County residents can register to become an emergency response volunteer as well as sign up to receive training from one of our community partners at www.RegisteredandReady.com.

The Albany County Department of Health and the Sheriff's Office are launching a Community Preparedness Initiative to collaborate with schools and community organizations to provide free preparedness activities, incentives and resources to Albany County residents. If your school or organization is interested in participating, invite them to contact Maria DeLucia-Evans at (518) 765-3559 or Mkd59@cornell.edu to receive an application and a complete list of suggested activities.

Water is the Best Drink

- Drink a glass of water in the morning to start your day right
- Try for 8 glasses (64 oz.) throughout the day.
- Water has zero calories and sugar!
- A switch to water from a 20 oz soda will lose 250 calories and 16 tsp of sugar.
- Having a glass of water with every meal can keep you from over eating.
- To prevent dehydration, drink water before you start physical activity and drink more after you are done.
- Water helps keep your whole body healthy.
- Water keeps your energy levels up.



Rabies is Preventable: Protect Yourself and Your Family

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord). Infected mammals can transmit the rabies virus to humans and other mammals. Rabies is usually fatal once symptoms appear. Fortunately, rabies is preventable and only a few human cases occur each year in the United States.

HOW DOES SOMEBODY GET RABIES?

Rabies is spread through virus-containing saliva. A person can be exposed to the rabies virus if they are bitten by an infected animal or, less commonly, if the infected saliva enters an open cut or mucous membrane (eyes, nose, mouth).

WHAT WILD ANIMALS CAUSE THE MOST PROBLEMS? In Albany County, bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes are the main animals that get rabies. In the United States, most rabies infections seen in people are from bat bites. Bat bites can be so small you might not think they are very serious or even notice that they are there.

If you discover a bat in your house, especially in a room where you or a family member is sleeping, it is important to call your local health department and they will assess any risk of exposure to rabies. If you find a bat in your home and you think that an exposure has occurred, or you are not sure, the best thing to do is to safely **capture the bat. Do not release the bat!** The bat can be tested for rabies and if someone has been exposed they can be treated appropriately. Testing the bat can avoid unnecessary treatment. Call your local health department for directions on how to have the bat tested. A video on how to safely capture a bat can be viewed on the

New York State Department of Health website (<http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/>).

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR PET?



The best way to protect your pet is to keep their rabies vaccinations up-to-date. Some other ways to decrease your pet's chance for getting rabies:

- Always walk your dog on a leash so they can't run loose.
- Do not leave pets outdoors unattended or let them roam free.
- Don't leave pet food or dishes outside which may attract wild animals.
- Keep garbage that is left outside in a secure container.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ANIMALS WITH RABIES?

- Never feed, touch or walk up to a wild animal, stray dog or cat.
- Avoid any animal that is acting strangely and call your local animal control officer for help.
- Bat-proof your home. Board up any open areas in your attic and elsewhere where bats might enter. Make sure that windows and screens are tight fitting and that there is a cover on the chimney.
- Report all potential rabies exposures to the local health department. You may need to receive post exposure treatment.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF AN ANIMAL BITES ME? Wash the wound with soap and water for at least five minutes. Then visit a doctor as soon as possible so the doctor can decide if you need more medical attention

In addition, it is helpful to determine if the animal has rabies. If you are bitten by a domestic animal like a dog, cat, or ferret, attempt to find the owner. If the owner is found the animal can be confined and observed for 10 days to rule out the possibility of rabies. If a wild animal bites you, call the local animal control officer who will try to catch it. Once caught, the animal can be tested for rabies.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT IF I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO RABIES?

The good news is that rabies is 100% preventable with appropriate medical care. Rabies post exposure vaccination can be given which consists of a dose of immune globulin (quick immunity) and four doses of rabies vaccine (prolonged immunity) given over a 14 day period. Rabies vaccine is given in the arm and causes minimal discomfort similar to other routine vaccines. Rabies post exposure vaccination should be started as soon as possible after exposure. Local health departments (including the Albany County Department of Health) can assess your risk of rabies exposure and coordinate any necessary vaccinations. For more information or to report an animal bite or potential bat exposure, call Albany County Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health at (518) 447-4620.

Did You Know... ?



Every year, cancer claims the lives of more than a quarter of a million women in America. Women can reduce their cancer risk by adopting a healthy lifestyle and getting the right cancer screening tests for their stage of life.

If you are uninsured or underinsured, free breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening, diagnostic, treatment and support services are available.

Please call the Cancer Services Program of Albany County at (518) 454-4055 for more information.

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www.albanycounty.com/health

Mission Statement

"The Mission of the Department of Health is to prevent diseases, epidemics, and injuries; to protect against hazards that affect health and safety; and to promote the healthy development of children and the wellness of all Albany County residents."



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Services Available at Albany County Department of Health

(518) 447-4580

Clinical Services

Immunizations, Tuberculosis, STD and Children's
Dental Services

Communicable Disease Program

Information and education for health care
providers and county residents

Environmental Health Services

Regulation of public food service, pools/beaches,
children's camps, hotel/motels, tattoo/piercing,
private/public water and septic, rabies, lead and
tobacco

Health Education and Wellness

Information and education for individuals,
businesses, schools, and community groups

Maternal and Child Health Programs

Home visiting for pregnant women, parenting
families, and children

Public Health Preparedness

Emergency planning, Pandemic Flu and bioterrorism
awareness

HIV/AIDS/STD Education

HIV Testing and Counseling



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