



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

JAMIE CLOVER ADAMS
DIRECTOR

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To: All Local health Departments (LHDs)
Attn: Medical Director/ Health Officer / Director Environmental Health
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)
Attn: Food and Dairy Division Managers

From: Sandra Walker, Food Program Manager, *Sandra Walker*
Food and Dairy Division

Subject: School Food Program Share Tables

The MDARD has been asked by the Michigan Department of Education to provide some guidance on the practice known as "Share Table." This practice allows food to be shared between students once it has been served.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services provided schools with the "2012 Site Supervisor's Guide for the Summer Food Service Program." This guide states that a sharing table or station can be designated where children may return whole items that they choose not to eat and take items other children have shared, provided that this is in compliance with local and State health and safety codes.

The Michigan Food Law does not prohibit the sharing or giving of food. The Michigan Modified 2009 Food Code (FC), §3-306.14(B1 and 2) allows a food that is not time/temperature control for safety (TCS) to be re-served from one consumer to another if:

1. The food is dispensed so that it is protected from contamination and the container is closed between uses, or
2. The food is in an unopened original package maintained in sound condition.

Section 3-801.11(G) of the FC allows for re-serving of food within a highly susceptible population, as specified under §3-306.14(B).

The MDARD recommends only foods that are pre-wrapped or commercially packaged or whole uncut fresh fruits and vegetables be allowed on the share tables. Items may include commercially packaged fruits or vegetables or fruits that need to be peeled before eating. Apples that have been wrapped before serving and that have not been un-wrapped by the student would be acceptable. The MDARD would consider foods that are TCS, such as unopened containers of milk, yogurt, or other TCS foods that are commercially packaged, maintained within proper time/temperature controls, and have not been opened to be shared.