Food Safety Transportation Guidelines

One of the key factors that influences and directly impacts the distribution of food in the food banking world is food safety. It is essential to protect the integrity and quality of the food that will be distributed to clients. Food is brought in through a variety of distributors and it either comes to our warehouse or directly to a food pantry. Agencies that come to Feeding Tampa Bay to shop will load their vehicles to transport food to their pantry and/or kitchen. It is important to insure the safety of the food in each step in this process, therefore we must all follow the food safety guidelines that are set in place. Failing to properly handle food can lead to illness among clients as well as pantry staff and volunteers. Here are some guidelines that should be practiced when transporting food:

- Vehicles, accessories, and connections should be kept clean and free from dirt, debris, and any other substance or odor that may contaminate the product.
- Keep items, such as Oil, antifreeze, and wiper fluid away from food as they could contaminate the food.
- Keep meat, poultry, and seafood separate from each other and away from other food.
- DO NOT place raw food (raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs) over ready-to-eat food.
- Keep food cold in unrefrigerated vehicles. Cover refrigerated and frozen food with thermal blankets or place food in coolers with ice packs.
- Plan your trip to the food back! avoid unnecessary stops to keep drive time in unrefrigerated vehicles short.

Following food safety guidelines is important for the health and nutrition of our clients, as our mission is to fight hunger insecurity and help those in need. Feeding Tampa Bay thanks all our partner agencies for supporting us in our mission and helping to serve our community.

REMINDERS

Happy Holidays from Feeding Tampa Bay!

Holiday Schedule
Feeding Tampa Bay will be closed on Friday December 23rd, Monday December 26th, and Monday January 2nd.

Boxes
Please remember to bring back your banana boxes and pallets to Feeding Tampa Bay. These are important items that will help the food bank get food out to agency partners and clients.

Food Safety Transportation Guidelines

- Please remember to discard the item if the inner seal is broken and or damaged.
- If the product has an inner seal that is NOT broken and or damaged, the product may be distributed despite the cap potentially being loose.
- If cap is swollen, rusted, dented, or crooked please discard the product.
- Make sure to discard any glass jar that shows signs of leakage.

FEED & LEAD SERIES

Your are invited to attend the third class in our Feed and Lead series!

Your Coupons Matter will be hosted at Feeding Tampa Bay on January 19th. This class is a great opportunity to learn about how to use coupons to help your pantry save money. Feed and Lead educational training sessions are held monthly, in an effort to help our agency partners with capacity building.

Please check your email for upcoming session topics!
Lunch will be provided

For more information or to RSVP please email Karen Serrano Arce kserranoarce@feedingtampabay.org
**The Wildwood Food Pantry**

The Wildwood Food Pantry has just increased their capacity with their new addition of two cold storage units. The Wildwood Food Pantry was able to invest over $35,000 from local area donations in these two cold storage units. Their new 8'x8' freezer and cooler will enable them to store more healthy, fresh product in order to be able to serve more clients!

Feeding Tampa Bay would like to congratulate Wildwood Food Pantry for increasing their capacity to help feed families in need!

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**Feeding Tampa Bay Mobile Pantry**

We would like to update our partner agencies on the progress of our direct distribution program - the Mobile Pantry Program. Feeding Tampa Bay is continually running multiple mobile pantries each month.

On November 16th Feeding Tampa Bay’s mobile pantry provided food to 436 clients, with 1670 people in their households, at the University Area Community Development Center (UACDC)!

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**SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Social Services department of Hillsborough County Florida offers many resources and assistance programs for eligible members of the community. They partner with various community groups and nonprofit organizations to provide services that include credit counseling, food aid and financial assistance.

Visit their site to determine your eligibility and get more information on their services: http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/social-services

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**A Message from Transportation**

I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of Feeding Tampa Bay’s drivers and office staff for stepping in while I was away. Our Director of Operations, Jim Carpenter, stepped in and took charge while I was gone. I wish to recognize the great job our drivers performed when I was away and to note their level of commitment and dedication. I would also like to thank all of you, our agencies, for the help and support you lend to our drivers each day! Thank you!

Luis Arocho – Transportation and Facility Manager