



**Human Services**

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January 24, 2019

Mr. Larry Michael, Section Chief  
NC DHHS/Division of Public Health  
Environmental Health Section  
1632 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1632

Dear Mr. Michael:

In 2010 the Wake County Board of Human Services (Board) sent a letter of support for adoption of retail food establishment rules based on the 2009 FDA Food Code (Code). In 2012, the state adopted new retail food rules based on the Code. Wake County conducted studies of CDC risk factors associated with foodborne illness before and after the new state rules were adopted. The Wake County study data showed significant reductions in each of the CDC risk factors, due in part to the state’s adoption of the Code which focused on risk factors:

Observations of CDC Risk Factors IN compliance	Average	
	2010	2015
Approved Food Source	95%	96%
Final Cook Temperatures	91%	94%
Improper Holding / Time and Temperature	57%	66%
Contamination	87%	88%
Personal Hygiene	82%	90%

Since the Board’s latest endorsement in 2010, there have been two updates to the FDA Code, in 2013 and 2017, each more aligned with the latest science. The 2012 North Carolina retail food establishment rules have not kept pace with the FDA model Code. To ensure the County has a solid, science based regulatory foundation to protect the public health of its citizens, the Wake County Board of Human Services advocates for adoption of rules that align with the 2017 FDA Food Code.

Sincerely,

James Smith III, MD  
Chair, Wake County Human services Board