



# Fairfield County Health Department

R. Joseph Ebel RS, MS, MBA  
Health Commissioner

## GOLD MEDAL AWARD PROGRAM

The Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD) is initiating a **Gold Medal Award Program** in recognition for high-performing food service operations and retail food establishments. This program will recognize operations that consistently perform exceptionally well throughout the licensing year. ***Operations that finish the year with no critical or non-critical violations identified during routine inspections will qualify for the Gold Medal Award.***

Although award winners are selected based on the number of food code violations, operations can also be disqualified from eligibility if they fail to meet any of the standards of the FCHD Food Safety Program. The following issues can disqualify an operation from winning the award:

- Implicated in a foodborne illness outbreak
- Subject of more than one valid consumer complaint
- A routine inspection that requires a special follow-up inspection
- Failure to pay license fee by the March 1 deadline

Operations that meet the qualifying criteria and are selected as a Gold Medal Award winner will receive a gold decal that can be placed in a conspicuous location within the operation. This decal will emphasize customer satisfaction and promote the operator's commitment to safe food handling and emphasis on customer satisfaction.

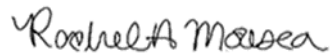
The goal of this new program is to increase food handler awareness of food safety principles and help motivate operators to place more emphasis on proper food handling practices while at the same time gaining a favorable reputation with the public. The Ohio Uniform Food Code, general food safety information and an example of the Gold Medal Award decal are included in the Food Safety Program portion of our website.

Additionally, we will be initiating a general sign program that will inform customers that food service and retail establishments have been inspected by the Fairfield County Health Department.

The sign program is a voluntary program. The food service and retail establishment operators are not required to display an inspection sign, but they will be offered a sign after a completed inspection. Regardless of the operator's decision to post the inspection sign, the public is encouraged to view inspection reports online through our website.

If you have any questions about these programs, please contact the Food Safety Program Supervisor, Sheila Wolfe, at (740) 652-2820.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel A. Moresea".

Rachel Moresea REHS  
Director of Environmental Health