



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Phone: 970-336-7204 Fax: 970-352-0242  
1150 O St., P.O. Box 758, Greeley, CO 80632

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

### WELD COUNTY LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTING RESTAURANT INSPECTIONS

WELD COUNTY, CO – Of all the services county government performs for its residents, the one most often overlooked is actually one of the most important: Restaurant inspections. Weld County's team of food inspectors regularly visit restaurants, bars, grocery stores, food trucks, concession stands...even school cafeterias. In fact, they perform approximately 2,500 inspections in Weld County each year.



Inspection reports have been available on the county's website for years, but the pages haven't drawn much traffic. "We took a new look at the information on those pages, how it was presented, what it was saying and whether or not it was useful for the public," said Commissioner Coordinator for the Department of Health Barbara Kirkmeyer. "We directed staff to improve and refresh the site in order to draw more people to it as a resource for information."

The Public Health and Environment team took on the task and is launching an educational campaign this week to include a much improved web site with easier search functions and inspection information as well as a printed component that features a business card with a QR code that will take people directly to the restaurant inspection web page. "We wanted to make it easy for the public to use the site anytime, anywhere," said Debra Adamson, Consumer Protection Manager for the Weld County Department of Health and Environment. "This card, which can be picked up at the Health Department or the County Administration Building can be kept in your purse or wallet and scanned with a QR reader on your smart phone."



Once a person is on the restaurant inspection page, they will be able to quickly and easily search by location or facility name to find out how that establishment performed on their last inspection. A letter grade attached to each inspection, along with color-coded bars will help people decide from where to purchase food.

The department will also post a list of the week's best inspections to the county Facebook page.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), each year approximately one in six Americans get sick from foodborne diseases, of which 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die.

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