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**Search Food Safety Inspection Results with New Online Tool:
*Whatcom County Health Department Adds Inspection Results to Website***

BELLINGHAM, WA —Restaurant-goers have a new and easy way to check the latest food inspection results at their favorite eateries in Whatcom County. A search feature added this week to the Whatcom County Health Department's website allows users to view summaries of food inspections for the most recent five years.

"We've been asked for easier access to food inspection results, and with this addition to our website, we're delivering on our promise to make those results available online." Health Department Director Regina Delahunt stated. "This new feature gives consumers the information they want about food safety practices at local food establishments in a quick, uncomplicated format."

The new search tool, available at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/SearchFoodInspections>, includes inspection summaries for all active food establishments permitted by the health department in Whatcom County. The results list all food safety violations found during each inspection, as well as information about how to read a food inspection report and what the results mean. Users can search for a restaurant or other food establishment using its name, address, or just a keyword.

"This is a great way for people to be able to make informed choices about their health. We're pleased to be able to offer this service to the public," says Tom Kunesh, who supervises the health department's food program.

Previously, inspection reports were only available by submitting a public records request to the health department. The online search tool does not display the complete, original inspection reports, but original documents are still available as public records.

The Health Department's food safety program works with food establishment operators every day. Food inspectors visit restaurants, supermarkets, food trucks, schools, coffee stands, convenience stores, and more to educate food workers and assure compliance with the Washington State Retail Food Code. For general questions about the food inspection program, please contact the health department at (360) 778-6034 or environmentalhealth@whatcomcounty.us.

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