

November 2023 EHFS Newsletter

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Training Opportunities

Webinars:

- **December 19th at 9AM – Building Codes:** Eric Copeland, Bureau Chief of the Building and Commercial Measurements Bureau at Montana DLI, will present on the Building Codes program in Montana. This includes permitting, inspections, and how building codes relate to sanitarians. Please come with any questions you may have.
- **January 16th at 9AM – Special Processing Part 2:** Brad Tufto, FDA Retail Food Specialist, will be joining us again to talk about special processing methods including curing, smoking, and custom processing.
- **February 6th at 9AM – More! Mushroom Outbreak and Investigation:** This webinar will go over last year’s mushroom-related outbreak from beginning to end including the perspectives and actions of sanitarians, epidemiologists, and communicable disease specialists, all of which were involved in the outbreak response.

Zoom links to live webinars and recordings of previous webinars can be found on the [EHFS Training Resources page](#).

Other Opportunities:

Registered Sanitarian Mentorship Program (RSMP) Mentors and Mentees Wanted:

Confluence and MEHA have announced a pilot mentorship program for SITs and sanitarians new to their positions (0-3 years) through mentorship with experienced sanitarians. This is a great opportunity for mentors and mentees alike. The program consists of skill-building webinars, monthly meetings, and in-person training and networking opportunities. The cost of the program for mentees is \$0. Mentors will be compensated. More information can be found on the [Confluence website](#). If you have questions about RSMP or how it can benefit you, please reach out Kira Flagstead at kira.fla@riverstonehealth.org

If you have any further questions related to upcoming trainings or would like to be added to the training announcement list, please contact Kareenna at Kareenna.Doctor@mt.gov.

-Kareenna

License Renewal Updates

Renewal Season is Here:

- Please don't use 'Active' for your 2023 license search criteria, the 2023 licenses will be in a 'renewed' status.
- Please start collecting the 2023 and 2024 license fees on all new licenses. If the new licensee doesn't want to or can't pay license fees for both years, please make sure they understand the 2024 license fee is due before December 31st, late fees cannot be waived per the MCA's.
- Please remember you have 15 days after receipt of the license to validate it or refuse to validate it.

-Gail

Job Openings

Butte-Silver Bow has an opening for an SIT or RS. To apply, please follow this link: [Butte-Silver Bow Sanitarian Job Opening](#)

If you would like to see a job opening in your county listed on our newsletter, please send it to me at Kaylie.Kummer@mt.gov

-Kaylie

Tourist Home Meeting

Last month, our office was asked to do a presentation for a group of tourist homeowners in Montana. At this presentation, I read the applicable rules, highlighted resources they could find on our website (including the map where they can find contact information for their local health department) and went over the process to obtain a license. Many owners stated that they have received conflicting information as to whether a license was required.

50-51-102(4) MCA "Establishment" means a bed and breakfast, hotel, motel, rooming house, guest ranch, outfitting and guide facility, boardinghouse, or tourist home.

50-51-102(12) MCA "Tourist home" means a private home or condominium that is not occupied by an owner or manager and that is rented, leased, or furnished in its entirety to transient guests on a daily or weekly basis.

50-51-201(1) MCA A person engaged in the business of conducting or operating an establishment shall annually procure a license issued by the department.

Per the MCAs, tourist homes are required to be licensed. I am aware that some counties do not have the resources to seek out these establishments as they rapidly pop up; however, if

you are contacted by an owner wishing to follow the law and obtain a license, you should not be turning them away. Please share this information with others in your office who may not be aware of the laws, such as administrative assistants.

-Staci

Bed Bug Resources

We have noticed an increase in calls and complaints related to bed bugs. Although bed bugs are not known to cause disease, they are known to be a public nuisance. To help you with this issue, we recommend visiting the public accommodation page. On this page, you will find useful bed bugs educational resources from various sources such as:

1. [Bed Bug Pamphlet](#)
2. [Keeping Bed Bugs out of Montana Hotels](#)
3. [University of Florida Bed Bug Information](#)
4. [Bed Bug Information from EPA](#)
5. [CDC Health Concerns about Misuse of Pesticides for Bed Bug Control](#)
6. [Bed Bug Early Detection Guide](#)
7. [Michigan State Bed Bug information](#)

Additionally, we have included a bed bugs template letter that you can use when addressing any establishment receiving bed bug complaints. The template can be found on the sanitarian resource page under the EHFS Forms. [link](#)

-Elvis

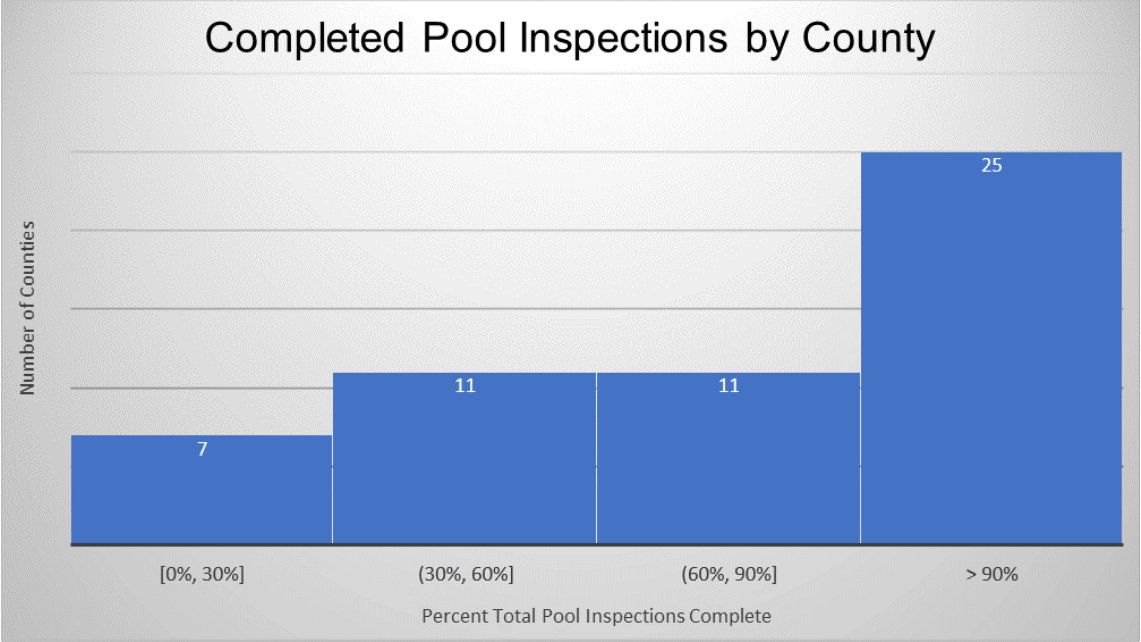
Pool Inspections

[50-53-209\(2\). MCA](#)

The department or a local board of health, pursuant to a cooperative agreement, shall annually conduct:

1. at least one full facility inspection and one critical point inspection of each public swimming pool or public bathing place operated throughout the year; and
2. at least one full facility inspection of each seasonal public swimming pool or public bathing place.

The histogram below shows that 25 counties have completed at least 90% of their required inspections. Most counties have done their first inspection of year-round pools. Please try to get out and get those second inspections completed before the end of the year.



-Erik



The EHFS office picture from Halloween! The Barbies from left to right are; Gail, Staci, Sadie, Kaylie, Karena, and Elvis.

Contact Information

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