**Media Release**

**Date:** March 13, 2018  
**To:** All Media  
**From:** Peoria City/County Health Department  
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**For Immediate Release**

**Health Department Awards Local Establishments**

The Peoria City/County Health Department will recognize local food establishments as recipients of the 2017 Food Safety Excellence Award on Monday, March 19, 2018. The award ceremony will be held during the Peoria County Board of Health meeting in Room 125 at the Peoria City/County Health Department, 2116 N. Sheridan Road, Peoria. Recipients of the award will be available for photographs at 5:30 pm with the award presentation at 6 pm.

The Food Safety Excellence Award is awarded to establishments that demonstrate a commitment to food safety. The award takes into account not only food inspections, but also dedication to food safety through the on-going development of voluntary food safety practices.

Overall, there are 1137 food safety licenses in Peoria County and approximately 900 were eligible to apply for this award. For the 2017 award program, there were 43 applicants and 30 met the criteria.

The Environmental Health Division Staff at the Peoria City/County Health Department commend establishments for participating in the 2017 award program. The Health Department would also like establishments to be aware that the award program is based on a calendar year, and applications for the 2018 award will be accepted until October 1, 2018. Category I & II food establishments are eligible to apply for the award.

For more information on food safety and other important public health issues, visit the Peoria City/County Health Department website at [www.pcchd.org](http://www.pcchd.org).

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The Peoria City/County Health Department continues efforts to improve community health in Peoria County with the overarching goal “to increase the number of people who are healthy at every stage of life.”