



SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

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Food Safety – Important in Every Season!



The warmer temperatures have finally arrived which brings more opportunities for picnics and grilling. It is vital for people to have clean hands, keep cold food cold, keep hot food hot, and cook items to the correct internal temperatures. When using a grill, keep it clean and sanitary to prevent fires. Scrub debris off the grill prior to use, then pre-heat the grill and scrub any excess debris with steel wool or a scraper. Be sure to clean the grease trays, which can also attract pests if not cleaned.

Clean utensils often! Have extra utensils with you while grilling. Using separate utensils for raw items and ready-to-eat items eliminates the potential for cross contamination. Cross contamination is when raw meat is stored above or in direct contact with ready-to-eat foods such as pre-cooked items and vegetables. Store raw meats and eggs below ready to eat food. While using the grill, heat pre-cooked or ready-to-eat food items first, then move onto the raw meats. Wash hands as often as possible. Scrub hands, use soap, then use paper towels or a hand dryer. If at a park, bring hand sanitizer.

Important Temperatures to Memorize:

- Cold foods must be held at 41°F or below. Take food out of the refrigerator right before putting items on the grill. Or if camping or having a picnic at a park, please bring plenty of ice and/or ice packs! Do not let cold foods exceed 41°F
- Hot foods must be hot held at 135°F or above. Ready to eat foods must be cooked to a minimum of 135°F or above.
- Fish, pork, ham, veal, and lamb must be cooked to a minimum of 145°F or above.
- Ground beef, ground pork, sausage, bratwursts, and ratites (flightless birds such as ostrich) must be cooked to a minimum of 155°F or above.
- Poultry, stuffed meats, casseroles, and any items that were previously cooked then will be reheated must be cooked to a minimum of 165°F or above.

Learn more:

[Food Safety Basics](#)

[Temperature Danger Zone](#)



Alert Iowa – Sign Up Today!

What is Alert Iowa?

Alert Iowa is a county and statewide mass notification and emergency messaging system used by state and local officials to quickly spread emergency or public safety messages to residents.

Availability may vary by county, but features include:

- Weather alerts
- County or community-specific alerts
- Alerts in multiple languages
- Registry for those with disabilities and chronic conditions
- Alerts received via voicemail, text, or email

Sign Up

To receive up-to-date safety information, sign up for alerts through Alert Iowa. For Scott County alerts, sign up here: <https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/ema/alert-iowa>.



Upcoming Events

- May 21, 2026, 12:00 PM: Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Boardroom.
- May 25, 2026: Office Closed due to Memorial Day.

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Our priority.