



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
300 N. San Antonio Road • Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 681-5102 • FAX (805) 681-5191
www.countyofsb.org

P R E S S R E L E A S E

News Media Contact:

Susan Klein-Rothschild, MSW
Deputy Director
(805) 681-5435
(805) 896-1057 (cell)
sklein@sbcphd.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Menu Labeling and Nutritional Information Requirements

SANTA BARBARA, Ca – Effective December 1, 2016, all chain restaurants with 20 or more locations are required to provide nutrition information related to standard menu items. All menus, menu boards, and drive through menu boards at qualified retail food businesses must include calorie content adjacent to the menu items and expanded nutritional information must be available in written form upon request.

Santa Barbara County Health Officer Dr. Charity Dean stated, “We believe menu labeling is an important step forward to help consumers make informed decisions about the foods they eat. Good nutrition is the very basis of good health. We commend local restaurants for their efforts to add nutritional information to food menus.”

Menu labeling regulations were established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). California also instituted menu labeling requirements under the California Health and Safety Code Section 114094(d). These requirements become effective on December 1, 2016 in California which is 6 months before the federal ACA requirements take effect on May 5, 2017.

The federal labeling requirements apply to chain restaurants, and “other similar” chain eating establishments such as bakeries, cafeterias, delicatessens, concession stands located within entertainment venues, grocery stores selling take-away foods, and food takeout and delivery establishments with 20 or more locations.

The Environmental Health Services program within the Public Health Department is the local agency that will be monitoring the menu labeling requirements for those qualified restaurants. They plan on using an educational approach for the first three to six months to give businesses an opportunity to come into compliance with the new menu labeling requirements.

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