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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dickinson-Iron District Health Department shares Safe Food Preparation Practices

Crystal Falls and Kingsford, Michigan – August 2026. The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department would like to share safe food preparation practices. Following these simple tips when preparing, cooking, and serving foods can help prevent illness. These tips can be even more important when preparing, cooking, and eating food outdoors.

1. Handwashing and sanitizing are important when you are cooking, preparing, and serving food. It is important to have hand soap to wash hands properly. Utilize a safe water source for handwashing. Use antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizers for extra protection as well as for disinfecting surfaces.
2. Remember to store all your cold food at 41 degrees F or less. If you use coolers, fill with ice to maintain the cold temperature.
3. Wash all fruits and vegetables before eating. Utilize a safe water source to wash.
4. Do not store your raw meat with ready-to-eat foods and drinks to prevent contamination. Cross contamination can also occur when utensils or cutting boards are used for multiple tasks. Bring extras to prevent contamination.
5. Cook or grill raw meat to the proper temperature, so it is safe for consumption. Use a food thermometer to monitor internal meat temperatures. Proper cooking temperatures can be found at www.foodsafety.gov
6. Keep food covered and protected from flies and other pests that could contaminate your food. Also, make sure if using a park picnic table to cover it with a tablecloth as it may be dirty from animals or previous use. Having clean barriers helps keep food and utensils safe.

For additional information, please contact the Environmental Health Division at 906-779-7239 or 906-265-4172 or visit www.foodsafety.gov

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