Understanding Child Care Inspections

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Childcare Inspection - Not a scored inspection.

**What are health inspection reports?**

The District’s food inspection report online database contains a searchable range of inspections conducted by the Environmental Health Department from August 2021 through current. The selected inspection will appear in the form of a HTML document under a particular facility and by PDF. The PDF files are inspection checklists issued to the establishment for posting visible to the public. The HTML report inspections are divided into two categories: The observations & corrective actions, and the Additional Comments. The HTML format is intended to provide the reader with a clearly visible understanding of the inspection conducted.

**What is the purpose of an online database?**

Beginning August of 2021, the Environmental Health Department began entering inspections from the Cloud Based database system called HS Gov Tech. The inspections conducted by the Environmental Health Department are public documents that are required to be posted visibly to the public. The online inspections database is being made available to help the public access these public records for easy viewing online. Inspections are made available online immediately after completion of the report.  Complainant information is not available for public view by law.

**What information is included in an inspection report?**

The health inspection checklist form is often the form posted in a visible location at the Child Care Facility and a link to the original checklist is a clickable link in each Childcare Inspection online.

The Child Care Inspection Report contains the following information:
Inspection Type: This is the reason for the site visit

Date of the Site visit

Facility Permit Number

Facility Name, address and owner of the business

State of TX Licensing Representative that the facility reports to

Details about the Faciltiy: Maximum number of children the Facility is licensed to keep, number of children present during the time of the inspection, and age range the facility is licensed to keep.

The HTML Inspection and the Child Care Facilty checklist will identify the basic information about the childcare facility and the violation observations & corrective actions for any item found out of compliance.

**What types of inspections do health inspectors conduct?**

**Routine:** An unannounced periodic inspection conducted as a part of an ongoing regulatory scheme based on the establishment’s risk category.

**Follow-up Inspection:** This is an inspection for the specific purpose of re-inspecting items that were not in compliance at the time of the routine inspection. These may occur either 5-days or 1- days after the initial findings.

**Complaint:**This is an inspection conducted as a result of a complaint received by the health department. The specifics of the complaint will be evaluated and discussed with the person in charge.

**Other:**Other inspections would include Inspections such as the following:

If the inspection indicates it is closed or permit suspended would it be deemed a unsafe.

**What are the types of food establishment violations?**

**Types of Violations:**
Building & Equipment

Ventilation, Lighting, and Heating

Toilet Facilities

Water Supply, Waste Water Disposal, Trash Disposal, (Utilities)

Pest Control

Safe Food Handling

Other Environmental Safety & Sanitation Measures As Applicable

**What are the Different Compliance Status Options?**

An inspection report issued by Environmental Health is a document that indicates findings observed during an unannounced routine site visit. Any violation marked on the report would indicate a deficiency of minimum standards, or District Order.

**What is a standard weight? NET Health’s inspection report is not scored. It is a pass or fail inspection. If there is no indication on the inspection report that the establishment is closed or permit suspended, then it is deemed environmentally safe during the time the inspection was conducted. NET Health’s reports are viewed by the Texas Department of Family Protective Services. Their inspection report is independent from NET Health’s environmental assessment and can be requested from TX DFPS.**

The Compliance Status describes the observations made during the inspection for each of the 48 different violation items.

OUT – If an item observed is in violation of the Child Care Rules it is a risk to the health and safety of the children. The inspector will try to observe all items during the time of inspection. Each item is marked as observed at the time of the site visit. Observations are marked with a check mark on the checklist and a description of items out of compliance are written out on the inspection report.

IN – When an item is marked IN it has been observed by the inspector during the inspection as in compliance with Child Care requirements.

NO – An item marked NO means that the establishment performs this activity, but this activity or this item was not observed during the time of the inspection.

NA – Items marked NA mean that this activity is not performed at this Child Care and it is not applicable.

COS – This means that a violation was observed during the inspection but the food establishment was able fix the problem, therefore the violation was Corrected On Site.

R – When and item is found in violation during an inspection and the inspector marks the item as

OUT of compliance, the inspector will also place a check mark in the box to the right of the violation item if this type of violation was also marked on recent prior inspections. This R indicates a Repeat Violation.

**What types of Child Care Facilities are inspected?**

Child Care Facility with 12 or more

Child Care Facility with 7-12 children

Non Profit Child Care Facilities

Residential Care Facility

Day Socialization Facility

**How often are Child Care Facilities inspected, and what is the criterion that determines the frequency of inspections?**

NET Health conducts unannounced inspections at licensed operations at least once per year. Inspections might be more frequent, based on an operation's ability to comply with minimum standards, rule and law.

**Under what conditions will a Child Care Facility get shut down?**

The Environmental Health Department of NET Health closes child care establishments under the following conditions:

Suspension of operating license for imminent health hazard: The business license is suspended and a directive is given to cease and desist using unsafe portions of the facility or the entire facility to ensure health and safety of the facility. The suspension remains in effect until the violation (s) are corrected. Grounds for closure due to imminent public health risks may include but are not limited to:

* No hot water
* Sewage backups or overflows
* No utilities
* Fire
* Vermin infestation
* Contaminated food
* Communicable illness outbreak
* Flood

**Non-compliance:**A child care establishment can be closed for not addressing and correcting problems identified in a previous inspection. The problems may have originally generated a notice and a date agreed upon in the compliance plan by the local regulatory authority. Failure to correct these items could result in a summary suspension or closure.

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