

## Food Safety Guidelines for Emergency Mass Feeding Shelters

# Facility/Equipment Safety



- Review plans for intermittent power outages.
- If the water system is contaminated, use bottled water to clean equipment and surfaces.
- Wash, rinse and sanitize all food preparation and serving areas. Store cleaning cloths in sanitizing solution.
- Properly wash, rinse and sanitize all cooking and serving utensils.
  - Scrape/remove solid foods
  - Wash with detergent and water
  - Rinse
  - Sanitize with appropriate solution
  - Air-dry
- Provide hand-washing facilities or portable hand-washing stations equipped with soap, warm water and single-use towels.
- Verify that the wastewater system is operable. Have a backup system to collect waste water if the system is compromised.
- Provide trash containers. Remove trash regularly, and keep the waste covered as much as possible to avoid pest issues.

### Sanitizing solution\*

Use 1 tablespoon of unscented household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) for each gallon of cool water. Make fresh solution daily.

- **Work surfaces:** Wash, rinse and wipe/spray with sanitizer solution. Allow to air-dry.
- **Dishes, utensils, cutting boards:** Wash and rinse. Soak for at least 2 minutes in bleach solution and air-dry.

NDSU

EXTENSION

\*This concentration is recommended by [www.clorox.com](http://www.clorox.com). Your local health department's sanitizer guidelines may be different. Consider using test strips to monitor bleach concentration.

Reviewed June 2025

County commissions, North Dakota State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. NDSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, participation in lawful off-campus activity, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to Vice Provost for Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 100, 701-231-7708, [nds.u.eoaa@nds.u.edu](mailto:nds.u.eoaa@nds.u.edu). This publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities upon request, 701-231-7881. web-6-25