

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 20, 2018 For More Information, Contact: Nicole Peske Public Information Officer North Dakota Department of Health Phone: 701.328.4619 E-mail: <u>npeske@nd.gov</u>

NDDoH Cancels Public Hearings on Proposed Cottage Food Laws

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has closed the public comment period and cancelled three hearings inviting comment on proposed cottage food laws. The cancelled public hearings were scheduled to take place March 22, 2018 from 9 a.m.- 11 a.m. at the North Dakota Department of Health in Bismarck; March 22, 2018 from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. at Southwestern District Health Unit in Dickinson; and March 23, 2018 from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. at Fargo Cass Public Health in Fargo.

"Thank you to the public for the feedback we have received on the proposed administrative rules," said State Health Officer Mylynn Tufte. "The Department of Health will be working with key legislators and other stakeholders to work through the details on health and safety investigations."

The ND Cottage Foods Act is new legislation that allows for the direct sale of uninspected homemade products. This provides new opportunities for home-based food businesses making homemade products such as baked goods, jams, jellies, and pickles, to enter certain markets in North Dakota.

For more information on food safety, visit <u>www.ndhealth.gov/foodlodging</u>.

– 30 –

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