



CLAY COUNTY

PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



800 Haines Drive
Liberty, MO 64068
816-595-4200
clayhealth.com

Media Contact

Kelsey Neth
Public Information Officer
816-200-3107
kneth@clayhealth.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clay County Food Establishments & Pools Awarded for Safety Efforts in 2024

LIBERTY, Mo. – June 26, 2025 – Clay County Public Health Center (CCPHC) is proud to announce the recipients of the Food Safety Excellence and Pool Safety Excellence awards for outstanding efforts in 2024.

“All food and pool facilities in Clay County are held to high safety standards, but these award recipients showed consistent dedication last year,” said Section Chief of Environmental Health Robert Gilliland. “Their team members worked hard, cared about the details, and took seriously their responsibility of keeping people safe. We’re proud we can recognize their efforts in this way.”

Food Safety Excellence Award

This award recognizes food establishments that continue to successfully follow the Clay County Food Code, exhibit outstanding food safety and sanitation practices, and achieve exceptional inspection results during the calendar year. To qualify for the award, they must meet multiple criteria such as having been open and operating for the full year with no repeated violations, no follow-up inspections needed, and no confirmed cases of foodborne illnesses.

This year’s 93 winners represent the top 12% of establishments overseen by Clay County Public Health Center. Additionally, 23 establishments earned “Gold Standard” recognition for earning the safety award three or more years in a row.

Food establishments are more than just restaurants. Clay County provides permits for numerous types of places that serve food, including school cafeterias, hospitals, nursing homes, food trucks, churches, caterers, bars, convenience stores, concession stands, event vendors, and more. In 2024, CCPHC’s environmental health team – made up of 11 staff members - conducted 1,490 routine food establishment inspections, 372 temporary food event inspections and investigated 155 food-related complaints.

Pool Safety Excellence Award

For the year 2024, 26 facilities qualified for the Pool Safety Excellence Award, representing 22% of Clay County-regulated recreational water facilities. Seven facilities earned “Gold Standard” status, putting

themselves in the top 6% of Clay County facilities.

The pool safety award recognizes facilities that continue to successfully follow the Clay County Rules and Regulations for Pools/Spas, exhibiting pool quality and safety practices and achieving exceptional inspection results during the calendar year. To qualify for the award, facilities must have been open and operating the full year with no repeated violations, needed no follow-up inspections, are Virginia Gram Baker (VGB) compliant, and had all necessary pool operator/manager certifications, no confirmed cases of water-borne illnesses, and no imminent risk or safety violations.

In 2024, the Clay County’s environmental health team conducted 474 recreational water inspections and re-inspections. Types of facilities inspected include neighborhood pools, civic facilities, pools in healthcare facilities, hot tubs, spas, spraygrounds, and more.

###

Environmental Health Program

Protecting the public from foodborne and waterborne illnesses is essential to maintaining a healthy community. These types of illnesses can spread quickly and affect large numbers of people, sometimes causing severe health complications, especially for children, older adults, and those with weakened immune systems. Local health departments play a critical role in preventing outbreaks by conducting regular inspections, educating food and pool operators, enforcing safety regulations, and responding quickly when problems arise. By working closely with businesses, schools, and other organizations, Clay County’s environmental health team helps ensure that the food we eat and the water we swim in are safe—reducing illness, protecting lives, and promoting overall well-being across the community.

About Clay County Public Health Center

Serving the northeast region of the Kansas City metropolitan area, Clay County Public Health Center is a nationally accredited local public health department that protects health by implementing evidence-based prevention programs and services. This community approach to wellness not only prevents the spread of disease but also provides wellness education to empower people to make healthy choices. To learn more, visit clayhealth.com.

The mission of the Clay County Public Health Center is to deliver the essential public health services of prevention, promotion, and protection to the communities of Clay County.



2024 Food Safety Excellence Award Winners

93 Winners, representing 12.3% of establishments inspected by Clay County

*23 “Gold Standard” Award Winners – qualified for Excellence Award 3 or more years in a row

Excelsior Springs

- Aspire Senior Living Excelsior Springs
- Clay-Ray Veterans Association
- **Cornerstone Elementary* 4**
- Excelsior Springs Middle School
- **Excelsior Springs Senior Center***
- Lewis Elementary
- Meet The Need Opportunity Cafe and Coffee
- **Other Trails***

Gladstone

- A Turning Point Ministry
- Brighton Learning Center
- Burger King
- Chapel Hill Elementary School
- Class Act Coffee
- Fairfield Inn & Suites Kansas City North / Gladstone
- Hy-Vee (Starbucks)
- **Linden West Elementary School* 4**
- Michelle's Bar & Grill
- Mother Hubbard's Cupboard
- **Northland Innovation Campus- NKCS SAGE***
- Oakwood Manor Elementary School
- Quik Trip #181
- St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church

- Suvée Sweets Cakerie
- Taco Zone
- Tasty Baghdad
- The Italian Sausage Company

Kearney

- Club At MariMack
- Coco Street Fudge
- **Fair Share Farm* 6**
- **Hawthorne Elementary***
- Kaji Sushi & Grill
- **Kearney Early Education Center* 5**
- **Kearney Middle School* 4**
- Kearney Nutrition

Liberty

- **Above All Trampoline***
- **Alexander Doniphan Elementary School* 4**
- Chick-Fil-A
- Classy Chocolate
- Clay County Juvenile Detention Center
- **Culver's Frozen Custard & Butter Burgers* 4**
- Discovery Middle School
- Dunkin Donuts
- **EPiC Elementary School* 6**

Liberty (cont.)

- Firehouse Subs
- Franklin Elementary School* 4
- Hammerhand Coffee
- Hawaiian Bros
- Heritage Middle School
- Lewis & Clark Elementary School* 4
- Liberty Community Center/Silver Citizen Center
- Liberty High School - The Nest
- Liberty Middle School
- Liberty North Senior High
- Liberty Nutrition
- Liberty Senior High School
- Lillian Schumacher Elementary School* 4
- Manor Hill Elementary School
- Norterre Bistro
- Our Lady of Mercy Country Home*
- Overflow Coffee House
- Red Robin
- Ridgeview Elementary School
- Smoothie King
- South Valley Middle School* 4
- Starbucks (Hy-Vee)
- Warren Hills Elementary School
- Wendy's #2198

- Scimeca's Online Retail Market & Deli
- Seasons Express
- Sonic Drive In of North Kansas City
- Taco Bell #34407
- The Sourdough Spot

Smithville

- Chop's BBQ & Catering
- Horizon Elementary School* 5
- Just Like Home
- Maple Elementary School* 5
- Smithville Eagle Heights

Other Areas of Clay

- Chinese Garden Restaurant - Claycomo
- McDonald's #1349 - Claycomo
- Subway - Claycomo
- Hidden Valley Golf Course - Lawson
- Missouri City School - Missouri City

North Kansas City

- Champion Burritos to Go
- Children's Learning Center* 6
- Classic Blends Coffee & Cigar Lounge #2
- F325 BBQ
- Harrah's - Twist/Canal
- Harrah's Diamond Lounge
- Hawaiian Bros
- Melt Box KC
- Norclay-Lakewood Elementary
- North Kansas City High School Cafeteria
- Sail Away Wine*



CLAY COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



2024 Pool Safety Award Winners

Total # of winners: 26, representing 22% of inspected facilities

Gold Standard award winners (three or more years in a row): 7, representing 6% of inspected facilities

Indoor Pool Yearly - 3

Liberty Community Center indoor pool 2023, 2024

Liberty Community Center therapy pool 2022, 2023, 2024

North Kansas City YMCA

Indoor Spa Yearly - 1

North Kansas City YMCA

Outdoor Pool Seasonal - 18

Broadway Village Apartments, Gladstone 2022, 2023, 2024

Brooktree HOA, Gladstone

Cedar Lake Estates HOA, Smithville 2023, 2024

Cherokee Village, Liberty 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Clay Meadows HOA, Liberty

Claymont Pointe HOA, Gladstone 2023, 2024

Club at Marimack, Kearney

Earnest Shepherd Memorial Youth Center, Liberty 2022, 2023, 2024

Harbor Lake Pool, Smithville

Harborview HOA, Smithville 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Homestead HOA, Liberty

Liberty Community Center outdoor pool, Liberty 2023, 2024

Meadows at Greenfield Pool Association, Kearney

Old Pike Country Club, Gladstone

One North Apartments, NKC

Rollins Landing Pool, Smithville 2023. 2024

Stonebrooke Estates HOA, Gladstone 2022, 2023, 2024

The Bluffs, Gladstone

Outdoor Wading Pool - 3

Liberty Community Center - Wading Pool, Liberty 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Harbor Lake Pool, Smithville

Rollins Landing Wading Pool, Smithville 2023, 2024

Sprayground Seasonal - 1

Dagg Park, NKC