



VLCT Municipal Short Term Rental Policy Retreat

Food & Lodging Program

November 8, 2025

Food & Lodging Program

The Food and Lodging Program works to protect health and prevent disease by promoting sanitation and food safety. To accomplish this, we license and inspect over 6,000 places where food is prepared, served, processed, or stored. We also regulate lodging facilities including hotels, bed & breakfasts, and children's camps.

Licensed Lodging Establishment Rule

- A lodging license is needed to operate a hotel, motel, tourist home or B&B that offers three or more guest units OR fewer units if you also prepare food.
- Short-term rentals like Vrbo and Airbnb that offer fewer than three units and don't serve any prepared food do not need a lodging license from the Health Department, but are subject to the Department of Public Safety's [Division of Fire Safety's health and safety regulations](#) for short-term rentals.
- A separate food service license is needed for a lodging facility that serves anything other than prepackaged items, whole fruit, or coffee.

Resources

- [Health Considerations for Short-Term Rental Operators](#)
- [Short Term Rental Safety, Health and Financial Obligations](#)
- [Lodging License Flow Chart](#)
- [Licensed Lodging Establishment Rule](#)
- [Legionnaires' Disease Prevention: Providing a Home for Guests, not *Legionella*](#)

Thank you!

Let's stay in touch.

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