

Guidelines for food sharing & food donations

Do not have any food and/or drink in clinical areas. Please only eat/drink in break rooms.

Food sharing

- Please do not to host any potlucks or buffet-style meals with your colleagues.
- Individually packaged, commercially prepared items such as granola or energy bars, single-serving bags of chips or snacks can be shared.
- Please perform hand hygiene prior to accessing pre-wrapped and packaged food.
- Pre-wrapped/packaged food should be laid out in an easily-accessible, grab-and-go manner so people's hands do not touch and cross-contaminate other items when selecting an item.
- If staff bring in homemade food, items need to be individually packaged and handed out to individual staff.
- Do not have shared condiments such as salad dressing, mustard, hot sauce in break rooms or staff fridges.
- Do not share communal items such as large bags of chips; boxes of Timbits or doughnuts; tins, containers or plates of cookies or other baked goods.

Food donations are appreciated and must meet the following guidelines:

- Donated food must come from a location with a current and valid food premise permit – ingredient and allergen list must be available.
- Individually packaged, commercially prepared items such as granola or energy bars, single-serving bags of chips or snacks can be donated.
- Homemade food items cannot be accepted.
- Food items must be individually packaged/wrapped.
- Items must use disposable food packaging – we are unable to accept reusable containers.
- No shared plates (such as fruit platters, cheese/meat platters) or communal boxes (such as tins of chocolate or boxes of donuts) can be accepted.
- Unit leadership will determine/coordinate distribution of food to staff.
- Follow good [food safety](#) practices (e.g., perishable food left sitting out longer than two hours will be discarded).
- If you are approached directly by a member of the public looking to donate food, please direct them to contact unit leadership and they will ensure distribution meets COVID-19 and IPAC guidelines.
- Staff are asked to not proactively reach out to local businesses for donation.

Please visit the [IPAC website](#) for detailed food safety guidelines.

