

Chametz after Pesach 2019

It is rabbinically prohibited to purchase *Chametz* after Pesach from a Jew who maintained *Chametz* in his possession over the course of Pesach. This is referred to in rabbinic literature as *Chametz She'avar Alav HaPesach*.

A product is defined as *Chametz* if it consists of any of the five major grains, including wheat, barley, oat, rye or spelt in a significant concentration. There is no prohibition to purchase *Chametz* from a non-Jew who was in possession of *Chametz* over Pesach.

The list below consists of establishments where one may and may not purchase *Chametz* immediately after Pesach. Stores from which one may purchase immediately following Pesach have no Jewish ownership or a valid sale of *Chametz* (by the Jewish owner to a non-Jew under the auspices of a Rabbi) was executed. Stores from which one may not purchase *Chametz* immediately after Pesach are Jewish owned or supplied and a valid sale of *Chametz* was not performed.

The list below is the most current as we go to print. Please understand that new information may become available as Pesach approaches.

We suggest that you contact your Rabbi for any further clarification or understanding of the issue of *Chametz* after Pesach.

Chametz may be purchased from the following stores immediately after Pesach 2019:

- All Capitol K establishments and caterers.
- National stores:

Aldi, BJ's, Costco, CVS, Food Lion, Harris Teeter, Kmart, Petco, PetSmart, Rite Aid, Royal Farms, Save-A-Lot, Sam's Club, Shoppers Food and Pharmacy, Trader Joe's, Walgreens, Walmart, Wegmans, Whole Foods Market, Winn-Dixie

- Stores in our community:

H Mart, MOM's Organic Market, ShopRite of White Oak

Chametz may not be purchased from the following stores immediately after Pesach 2019:

- **Snider's:** *Chametz* may only be purchased beginning four weeks after Pesach.
- Due to possible *Chametz* distributed by a Jewish company, if one has the option of purchasing *Chametz* from other stores, it is commendable not to purchase *Chametz* from **Giant, Safeway, and Target** until four weeks after Pesach.

Inside the Capitol K

A Guide to Capitol K Kosher Certified Catered Events

Rabbi Zvi Holland

When community members attend a catered affair, they have the right and responsibility to confirm that the food they are eating is kosher. *Halacha* allows and requires us to confirm that food is kosher in one of three ways: prior knowledge that an item is unquestionably kosher (e.g., an apple or glass of water), a Kosher seal on the product or testimony from at least one kosher witness that the item is indeed Kosher. When attending a Kosher-certified event, consumers are enjoined by *halacha* and common sense to confirm that the event is actually Kosher-certified. The mere statement that an event is catered by a Kosher caterer or the mention of a caterer's name (e.g., "The food is from Such and Such Store") is not always sufficient to determine that an event is certified as Kosher.

Full-Service Catering vs. Food Service

There are two methods through which the *Vaad* provides Kosher food: Full-Service Catering or Food Service. In Full-Service events, where the caterer is presenting and serving the food, a *Mashgiach's* presence is required to supervise service and equipment. In Food Service events, where all the food arrives Kosher-sealed and ready-to-serve on disposable equipment, the caterer does not present the food. Food Service may be chosen due to the specific nature of the event or because of the higher cost of Full-Service Catering.

For the consumer, this distinction is critical. At a Full-Service *Vaad* certified event, the *Vaad* is responsible for the food and everything served along with the meal. At a Food Service event, however, the *Vaad* only guarantees the food until the Kosher seals are broken and can take no responsibility for anything else provided at the event.

Therefore, the single most important piece of information required to determine the status of an event is whether it is a Full-Service Catered affair or a Food Service affair. The *Vaad* carefully defines a Food Service event to ensure that no claim or implication of Kosher certification can be inferred.

Food Service is defined as providing food and set-up for an event. Once the event begins, however, no service is supplied. The Food Service provider and/or provider's employees may not remain at the event; third party servers and kitchen staff are permitted access to the event. No uniforms, equipment or other signage bearing the caterer's logo may be used at the event. Contracts for Food Service should indicate that the client understands that once packages are unsealed, the *Vaad* is longer responsible for the *Kashrus* of their contents.

Consumers attending a Food Service event can only rely upon the *Kashrus* of the food presented if they or someone *halachically* reliable has seen the food arrive sealed. Drinks, party favors, other food, serving equipment and heating done at the event are