



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



2525 GRAND AVENUE ROOM 220 • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815 • (562) 570-4132
WWW.LONGBEACH.GOV/HEALTH/EH

December 15, 2017

Re: New City Ordinance Regarding Default Beverages Offered with Children's Meals

Dear Food Facility Operator:

On November 14, 2017, in an effort to promote healthy beverage options for children and families, the Long Beach City Council approved the addition of Chapter 8.17 to the Long Beach Municipal Code. This new chapter promotes improved health for children and youth by limiting the default beverages offered in meals for children to healthy choices. The chapter specifically addresses the current practice of offering sugar-sweetened beverages as the default beverage, as they are connected with the childhood obesity epidemic. For purposes of this new requirement, the *default* beverage means the beverage that is automatically included or offered as part of a bundled children's meal.

The new code requires any restaurant that sells a children's meal that includes a beverage, i.e. a "bundled" option, to make the *default* beverage offered with the children's meal one of the following:

1. Water, sparkling water, or flavored water, with no artificial sweeteners or additives;
2. Nonfat or one percent (1%) milk, or non-dairy milk alternative that is under one hundred thirty (130) calories per container and/or serving offered for sale; or
3. One hundred percent (100%) juice, with no artificial sweeteners or additives that is under forty (40) calories per serving.

The new code does not prohibit a restaurant's ability to sell, or a customer's ability to purchase, a substitute or alternative beverage instead of the *default* beverage offered with a children's meal, if requested by the purchaser of the children's meal.

This requirement became effective on December 14, 2017; however, the Health Department will be providing education to restaurant operators for the first six (6) months as the ordinance is fully implemented. The Long Beach City Council believes that limiting the sugary beverages offered with children's meals will contribute to the overall health and well-being of the City of Long Beach. We look forward to working together to implement this important public health ordinance. Please feel free to contact Nelson Kerr, Bureau Manager, Environmental Health, at (562) 570-4170 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Colopy".

Kelly Colopy,
Director, Health and Human Services