



Eric J. Holcomb  
Governor

Kristina M. Box, MD, FACOG  
State Health Commissioner

April 13, 2021

Dear Robert Alan Surface II:

This letter is in response to your request to be recognized as a wild mushroom identification expert. In accordance with 410 IAC 7-24, Section 164, Sanitary Standards for the Operation of Retail Food Establishments, mushroom species picked in the wild shall be obtained from sources where each mushroom is individually inspected and found to be safe by a mushroom identification expert. Such recognition may be granted to individuals who possess the knowledge and experience of dealing with common edible, as well as poisonous mushroom species. For the protection of consumers, it is imperative that an experienced individual identify wild mushrooms before they are marketed for human consumption.

Based on written recommendations received, the Indiana Department of Health Food Protection Division recognizes this ability. You are qualified as a wild mushroom identification expert for morel mushrooms.

Your registration ID # is **00160**.

In accordance with 410 IAC 7-24, Section 164, each individual mushroom in any given lot must be identified by you. As a further precaution you may wish to consider a method to minimize the risk of other mushrooms being added to lots that you previously identified. Any number of methods could be employed such as placing the mushrooms in a mesh bag and placing an identification seal around the opening. You may also wish to supply a copy of this letter to people who have mushrooms inspected. This can serve as an additional on-site verification that the mushrooms have been inspected by a recognized wild mushroom identification authority. These are not requirements but practices that you may wish to consider.

Other suggestions for labeling and record retention are listed in the accompanying "Instructions for Mushroom Sales."

Should any additional requirements and/or recommendations relevant to mushroom identification be received from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or of an Indiana rule change, you will be notified.

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers.



If you wish to request an administrative review or stay of effectiveness of this decision pursuant to Ind. Code §4-21.5-3-7(a), you must petition for such review in writing.

The petition must state facts demonstrating that:

- a. you are a person to whom the decision is specifically directed;
- b. you are aggrieved or adversely affected by the decision; or,
- c. you are entitled to review under any law.

Your request for review or stay of effectiveness must be filed in writing and addressed to:

Indiana State Department of Health  
Attn: Court Administrator  
Office of Legal Affairs  
2 North Meridian Street, Section 3H-99  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

on or before May 4, 2021. If no request for review or stay of effectiveness is filed by May 4, 2021 this decision shall become final.

Manda Clevenger, J.D.  
Director, Food Protection Division  
Indiana Department of Health

Attachment