DATE: March 3, 2022
TO: Health Department Permitted Food Service Establishments
FROM: Kristee Morgan, Sr. Environmental Health Specialist; Division of Environmental Health
RE: NY State Sanitary Code 14-1 and Reusable Containers

The Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) is reaching out to our regulated food service facilities at the request of Zero Waste Ithaca and their "Ithaca Reduces" program. This program encourages the customers to “Bring Your Own Containers” (BYOC). Participating businesses will fill reusable vessels and containers that customers bring in instead of using single-use disposable containers.

NY State Sanitary Code Subpart 14-1 allows a facility that is permitted as a food service establishment by the TCHD to choose to participate in this program and allow customers to bring their own containers for take-out or leftovers. Participating facilities should make sure that the containers are not visibly soiled or chipped before accepting them. As a private facility, you may decide whether or not you want to allow this at your business.

If you have any questions regarding the Ithaca Reduces program please e-mail them directly at: zerowasteithaca@gmail.com.