Indiana State Department of Health
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Kristina Box, MD, FACOG
State Health Commissioner

Certified Mail # 7017 2620 0000 5746 5389

December 27, 2019

Dear Gerald Brown III:

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 December 20, 2019, the Indiana State Department of Health Food Protection Program recognizes this ability. You are qualified as a wild mushroom identification expert for morel mushrooms only.

Your registration ID # is 00118.

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.

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.