

ORDINANCE 2026-09

AN ORDINANCE OF COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS REGARDING “COTTAGE FOOD OPERATIONS”

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:24-11.1 et seq., the New Jersey Department of Health has established a regulatory regime for the issuance of permits to cottage food operators, which are individuals engaged in the preparation and sale of home baked goods; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 8:24-11.1(e) specifically provides that “an applicant for a cottage food operator permit shall ascertain and comply with applicable local laws of the municipality in which the applicant seeks to operate a cottage food operation”; and

WHEREAS, in light of these regulations, the Township seeks to clarify its ordinances to allow for a properly licensed cottage food operator to operate from their home, while ensuring proper protections for the health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of Colts Neck Township, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey as follows: (additions to text indicated by underline; deletions to text indicated by ~~strikeout~~).

SECTION 1: That Chapter 124 “Food Establishments” is hereby amended and supplemented to add the following new article

ARTICLE II COTTAGE FOOD OPERATIONS

§ 124-8 Purpose.

- A. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:24-11.1, the New Jersey Department of Health has established regulatory regime for the licensing of cottage food operators in New Jersey.
- B. N.J.A.C. 8:24-11.1(e) specifically provides that “an applicant for a cottage food operator permit shall ascertain and comply with applicable local laws of the municipality in which the applicant seeks to operate a cottage food operation”; and
- C. This Ordinance is intended to set forth the local laws of the municipality relating to cottage food operators as expressly authorized by State regulation.
- D. The Township seeks to clarify its ordinances to allow for a properly licensed cottage food operator to operate from their home, while ensuring proper protections for the health, safety, and welfare.

§ 124-9 Definitions.

COTTAGE FOOD OPERATOR means a person or entity who holds a New Jersey cottage food operator permit pursuant to N.J.S.A. 8:24-11.1 et seq.

COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCT means a non-Temperature Control for Safety food that a cottage food operator prepares and includes:

- 1. Baked goods, including bread, rolls, biscuits, cakes, cupcakes, pastries, and cookies;
- 2. Candy, including brittle and toffee;
- 3. Chocolate-covered nuts and dried fruit;
- 4. Dried fruit;
- 5. Dried herbs, seasonings, and mixtures thereof;
- 6. Dried pasta;
- 7. Dry baking mix;
- 8. Fruit jams, fruit jellies, and fruit preserves;
- 9. Fruit pies, fruit empanadas, and fruit tamales (excluding pumpkin);
- 10. Fudge;
- 11. Granola, cereal, and trail mix;
- 12. Honey and sweet sorghum syrup;
- 13. Nuts and nut mixtures;
- 14. Nut butters;
- 15. Popcorn and caramel corn;

16. Roasted coffee and dried tea;
17. Vinegar and mustard;
18. Waffle cones and pizzelles; and
19. Upon written application to the Public Health and Food Protection Program, other non-TCS food.

§ 124-10 Cottage Food Operations.

- A. Prior to any person commencing operations as a cottage food operator or engaging in the production of any cottage food product, a person shall submit the following documentation to register the operation with the Colts Neck Health Officer;
 1. Zoning Approval for the Cottage Food Operator's License from the Zoning Officer
 2. An approved state Cottage Food Operator's License pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:24-11
 3. Colts Neck Township mercantile license for the Cottage Food Operation
 4. If a person proposes to engage in cottage food operations from a property that is a condominium, townhome, co-op, or other form of multi-family housing, and said property is subject to the provisions of the Condominium Act, N.J.S.A. 46:6B-8.1 et seq. and/or Planned Real Estate Development Full Disclosure Act, N.J.S.A. 45:22A-21 et seq., the person shall provide either a) documentary evidence that the proposed cottage food operation is permitted by the Association's governing documents, or b) a letter from the Association or its agent approving the cottage food operation.
 5. A written certification verifying that the person is the owner of the property from which the cottage food operations is proposed, or a written certification from the property's owner authorizing the cottage food operation.
- B. Colts Neck Township Zoning Officer shall issue a Zoning Approval authorizing the requested cottage food operations, provided:
 1. The person has provided all documentation and information required by subsections (A) above and (C) below;
 2. The proposed cottage food operation comports with the State's regulations at N.J.A.C. 8:24-11; and
 3. The location of the proposed cottage food operation is within a zone that authorizes cottage food operations, or the person has a land use board approval sanctioning same.
- C. Cottage food operator within the Township shall comply with the following regulations:
 1. No Cottage Food sales shall take place from the home of the Cottage Food Operator.
 2. Permissible Cottage Food Sales may take place at the home of the consumer, farm market or farm stand or at a NJ Temporary Retail Food Establishment
 3. No Cottage Food sales shall be made to (i) a person who is not the customer, (ii) to a wholesale establishment, (iii) to a retail establishment, (iv) by U.S. Postal Mail or common carrier or (v) Interstate Commerce outside the U.S.
 4. Deliveries to consumers' homes as permitted by N.J.A.C. 8:24-11.3(a)(1)(ii) shall be conducted only by the operator or resident of the operator's household and shall not be conducted by a non-resident employee or by a delivery service including on-demand services, except as permitted by N.J.A.C. 8:24-11.2(b).
 5. A cottage operator shall not erect or install any signage at the residence where the cottage food products are produced advertising or otherwise relating to the operations of the cottage food operator.
 6. No displays or samples of the cottage food products produced at a residence shall be permitted anywhere in public view.
 7. The cottage food business is operated by or employs only a resident or residents who are permanent full-time residents of the dwelling unit and no other persons;
 8. No nonresident employees, customers, or business invitees or guests shall visit the dwelling for cottage food operators.
 9. There shall be no change to the exterior of buildings or structures because of the use, and no outside appearance of a business use, including but not limited to parking, storage, signs or lights;

10. The cottage food operates no equipment or process that creates noise, vibration, glare, fumes, odors, or electrical or electronic interference, including interference with telephone, radio or television reception, detectable by neighboring residents;
11. The cottage food operations does not require any increased or enhanced water supply;
12. The quantity and type of solid waste disposal is the same as other residential uses in the zone district;
13. The capacity and quality of effluent is typical or normal residential use and creates no potential or actual detriment to the individual subsurface disposal system or its components;
14. Delivery trucks shall be limited to U.S. Postal Service, United Parcel Service, Federal Express and other delivery services providing regular service to residential uses in the zone district; and
15. All vehicular traffic to and from the cottage food operation shall be limited in volume, type and frequency to what is normally associated with other residential uses in the zone district.

SECTION II: That Section 102-84 “A-1 and A-2 Agricultural Residential Districts; A-3 Village Residential District” Subsection C “Accessory uses” be amended and supplemented to add the following part only

C. Accessory uses:

(21) Cottage food operations, subject to Chapter 124 Food Establishments, Article II Cottage Food Operations.

SECTION III: That Section 102-85 “A-4 Mixed Housing District” Subsection C “Accessory uses” be amended and supplemented to add the following part only:

§ 102-85 C. Accessory uses:

(9) Cottage food operations, subject to Chapter 124 Food Establishments, Article II Cottage Food Operations.

SECTION IV: That Section 102-85.3 “A-7 Residential District” Subsection C “Accessory uses” be amended and supplemented to add the following part only:

C. Accessory uses:

(14) Cottage food operations, subject to Chapter 124 Food Establishments, Article II Cottage Food Operations.

SECTION V: That Section 102-86 “AG Agricultural District” Subsection D “Accessory uses” be amended and supplemented to add the following part only:

§ 102-86 D. Accessory uses:

(20) Cottage food operations, subject to Chapter 124 Food Establishments, Article II Cottage Food Operations.

SECTION VI: Severability.

If any section, paragraph subsection, clause or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of this ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

SECTION VII: Repealer.

The remainder of all other sections and subsections of the aforementioned ordinance not specifically amended by this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION VIII: Inconsistent Ordinance.

All ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed as to such inconsistency.

SECTION IV: This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage, publication and filing according to law.

I hereby certify the Ordinance foregoing to be a true copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Township Committee of Colts Neck Township on the 13th day of May, 2026.

Kathleen Capristo

Kathleen Capristo, Municipal Clerk

RECORD OF VOTE												
	First Reading					Second Reading						
	April 29, 2026					May 13, 2026						
	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab	M	S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Viola			X						X			
Deputy Mayor Buzzetta			X						X			
Rizzuto		S	X					S	X			
Torchia Buss		M	X					M	X			
Tobia			X						X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent												