



NEWS RELEASE

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MCHD now offering online course for Food Handler classes

MOBILE, Alabama — For many years, the Mobile County Health Department has offered Food Handler classes at the Keeler Compound's Building 6 on 251 N. Bayou Street. Any food establishment employee who serves or prepares unpackaged foods or whose job duties require being in food preparation, service, storage or ware washing areas is required to obtain a food handler card every year.

In order to assist these service industry workers, the Inspection Services division is now offering an online version of the course. Those wishing to take the class may go to <http://mchd.statefoodsafety.com>.

“The new transition will make obtaining a food handler card more convenient for the community,” said Dr. Stephanie Crawford, who oversees the Bureau of Environmental Health and Communicable Disease. “The changes in the online program will provide the community an opportunity take the class at their own convenience, at their own pace and in various languages.

“They no longer have to bring the certificate to MCHD in order to obtain a card. They can print the cards from their computer. The new online program also provides interactive learning and will send the card holders an email reminder before their card expires.”

This food handler course provides instruction on the following:

- Food hazards — biological, physical, and chemical;
- Personal hygiene practices;
- Cleaning and sanitizing processes;
- Time and temperature controls.

The course will be offered in multiple languages: English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, American Sign Language, and Serbo-Croatian. The course is also accessible for those who may have learning challenges.

The course is \$15 plus an online fee of \$8, which is paid before taking the course. The online Food Handler class is accessible 24 hours a day on a computer, tablet or smartphone.

For those still wishing to take the course in person at the Keeler Compound, classes are offered at 8:45 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Inspection Services office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Beverage Handler class is not offered online at this time. Beverage Handler classes are given at the Keeler Compound on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The course begins promptly at 8 a.m. and ends at 9:45 a.m. The Beverage Handler course does not take the place of the Responsible Vendor program offered by the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

For further information on any of the courses, call 251-690-8114 or visit www.mchd.org.