

**August 8, 2018**

## **Schedule for food handler classes to change**

MOBILE, Alabama — For many years, the Mobile County Health Department has offered Food Handler classes at the Keeler Memorial Compound's Building 6 located at 251 North 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 annually obtain a food handler card.

Following the successful introduction of an online version of the class, the number of in-person classes is being changed effective October 1. The in-person classes will now be offered at 8:45 a.m., 10 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Inspection Services office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

Dr. Stephanie Woods-Crawford, who oversees the Bureau of Environmental Health and Preparedness, said the introduction of the online program provides the community an opportunity to take the class at their own convenience, at their own pace, in various languages, and to print their own card and certificate.

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 is 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.

The Beverage Handler class is not offered online at this time. Beverage Handler classes are given at the Keeler Memorial Compound located in Building 6 on Tuesdays 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](http://www.mchd.org) (under Services, go to Inspection Services and then Courses).