

PRESS RELEASE

Tel: (284)468-2730

Official Government Website:

<https://gov.vg>

Weekly Food Handler Training Begin to Accommodate Festival Rush

Release Date: 2 June, 2026



FESTIVAL FOOD SAFETY

ENJOY FESTIVAL FOOD SAFELY

Temporary food vendors must be **inspected, approved, and licensed** to operate.

LOOK FOR:

- Licensed and approved vendors
- Clean and organized food areas
- Proper food handling practices
- Food that is protected
- Hot food served hot and cold food kept cold
- Good hygiene practices (handwashing, hair restraint, etc.)

Unsafe food can quickly affect many people, leading to foodborne illness outbreaks, especially in crowded festival settings.

The Environmental Health Division has pre-arranged weekly food handler training courses to accommodate the influx of persons requiring food handler's certification ahead of the Emancipation Festival.

The schedule includes a mixture of virtual and in person training sessions, which begins today June 02 and concludes on July 28. The sessions are designed to provide flexibility and convenience for prospective attendees.

Acting Chief Environmental Health Officer, Ms. Henrietta Alexander, said that persons should take advantage of this opportunity. "We want to remind the public that **all food handlers are required to be certified** in order to operate during August festivities. **We also want to ensure that the participating community is aware that additional sessions will not be** conducted outside of this schedule, therefore, individuals are strongly advised to plan ahead to ensure certification to avoid any disruption to their business operations," Ms. Alexander cautioned.

The schedule is as follows:

- June 2nd at 9am virtual
- June 9th at 5pm ESHS
- June 16th at 9am Virtual
- June 23rd at 5pm ESHS
- June 30th at 9am Virtual
- July 7th at 9am Virtual
- July 14th at 5pm ESHS
- July 21st at 9am Virtual
- July 28th at 5pm ESHS

Booth owners are reminded to **visit the Environmental Health Division to collect temporary vending registration forms** as soon as possible.

The public can follow Environmental Health Division BVI on Facebook for updated information and food handlers' session's registration links.

No food handlers' sessions will be held in the month of August.

For more information, contact the Environmental Health Division via phone (284) 468-5110 or via email ehd@gov.vg.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development is committed to improving the health of the people of the Virgin Islands

For Additional Information Contact:

Natasha Lettsome-Humphrey
Public Health Communications Specialist
Ministry of Health and Social Development
Telephone: 468-2286

Email: nlettsome@gov.vg