

HEALTH ADVISORY



May 5, 2021
3:30 PM ChST

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road, Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



CHCC-PR-21-156

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice to food and drink vendors: Permit required to operate

Pursuant to [CNMI Public Law 12-48](#) and the [Public Health Food Regulations](#), it is unlawful for any person to operate or open for business any establishment or activity involving food or drink service without a valid and current sanitary permit.

Establishments or activities involving food or drink service shall lawfully meet minimum standards to keep consumables safe from the beginning of food processing to the point of consumer consumption. Subsequent sections in the Public Health Food Regulations require that all food service establishment employees and/or employers obtain a Food Handler certificate validating the completion of the mandatory food safety training and health examination. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Environmental Health Disease Prevention (EHDP) office is responsible for enforcing the statute. Fines may apply for noncompliance.

Food and drink service activities include:

- Temporary food service
- Food retail, wholesale, and transportation operations
- Pushcarts
- Caterers
- Motor vehicle food vendors
- Any food manufacturing, processing, packaging, importation, distribution, and warehousing facilities

General permit requirements:

1. Business license
2. Occupancy certificate from the Department of Public Works
3. Food Handler certification
4. Inspection for compliance with food safety standards

The CHCC EHDP office advises the community and consumers to take an interest in their own health by assessing the health risk of food and drinks purchased from unpermitted facilities.

Should you have any questions or concerns about food or drinks being sold, or to learn more on how to obtain a sanitary permit, please contact the EHDP office in Navy Hill at 664-4870/2/3, fax concerns to 664-4871, or email John Tagabuel at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp.

For more information about CHCC programs, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html>.