



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
WELLNESS AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

**Ministerial Building, Kingstown,
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, November 23, 2022

Contact: Permanent Secretary
Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

FOOD SAFETY AND HYGIENE

As we enter the Christmas Season 2022, the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, particularly the Public Health Department is encouraging the general public to work together with the department as we strive to prevent, detect and manage food borne diseases and risks, so as to maintain and improve our health.

For this season the theme “Safer Food, Better Health” will be adopted and persons are asked to practice food habits that are in harmony with this theme. It is important to note that safe food is essential to health and wellbeing, as well as a guarantor for good health. Definitely, benefits of safe food include improved nutrition and health, reduced absenteeism in schools and workplaces and ultimately an improvement in health and wellbeing.

Considering that there are multiple stakeholders who engage in food servicing at this time, the Public Health Department is asking that these five (5) key food safety measures be observed and practiced. These include:

- The use of safe water and raw materials;
- Cooking food thoroughly;
- Keeping the surroundings and food contact surfaces clean;
- Separating raw food from cook food; and
- Keeping food at safe temperatures.

A further appeal is extended to food businesses, inclusive of butchering and slaughtering service providers, to comply with the Department’s food safety guidelines and engage employees, suppliers and other stakeholders to develop and practice a culture of food safety and hygiene.

In an effort to support this food safety and hygienic initiative, the Public Health Department will be deploying inspectors throughout the state to provide meat and other food inspection services. As a result, we are kindly requesting your usual support and corporation as we continue to work together towards Safer Food and Better Health.

###