COVID-19 Update

Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
Meal Service during COVID-19 Outbreaks

March 20, 2020, 2:00 pm
Sent by listserv to CACFP Sponsors and posted at
www.kn-eat.org, Child and Adult Care Food Program, What's New

Wednesday night, President Trump signed H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which contains several provisions to support the operation of child nutrition programs working to serve students during coronavirus-related school closures. Notably, the bill:

1. Provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to grant states with child nutrition program waivers that may increase costs to the federal government. This will allow the Department to consider more options to help child nutrition providers continue serving children during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Provides the Secretary authority to: 1) issue nationwide waivers; 2) allow all child and adult care centers to operate as non-congregate sites; and 3) waive the meal pattern requirements if there is a disruption to the food supply.
3. Authorizes a Pandemic EBT program, which will provide food assistance to families with children whose schools are impacted by extended closures five days or more due to COVID-19.

As soon as KSDE receives implementing guidance from USDA, it will be conveyed in an update. Until that time, there is no change in guidance that has been provided to date. USDA stated in a letter sent to State Agencies this afternoon that they understand the urgency of your need for information and answers. They are working as rapidly as possible and it is their highest priority.

Answer to a frequently asked question from today:

Q. If fluid milk is not available, can reconstituted dry milk be used to meet CACFP meal requirements?

A. Reconstituted dry milk is only creditable in situations where there is limited availability of fluid milk. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, if fluid milk cannot be obtained in any variety then “milk” can include reconstituted dry milk. (Reference: 2020 Crediting Handbook for the CACFP)

Most of the KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness team will be working remotely for two weeks beginning next Monday, March 23. Contacting staff by email will help us most efficiently respond to you.

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