

# COVID-19 Update

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



March 25, 2020

*Distributed to CACFP Authorized Representatives and Home Sponsors via Listserv*

*As posted to [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), Child and Adult Care Food Program, Updates from CNW*

### **Meal Pattern Flexibility**

KSDE just received notice that a nationwide waiver is available to allow meal pattern flexibility in Child Nutrition Programs (COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #4). The waiver states that in order to participate, local Program operators must contact the State agency for approval to utilize this waiver. **KSDE will provide more information tomorrow when a process and procedure for Sponsors to request this waiver will be announced.**

### **At-Risk Afterschool Meals**

Sponsors must cease offering At-Risk Afterschool Meals as the school year for Kansas schools ended due to the executive order issued by Governor Kelly on March 18, 2020. Sponsors who were previously serving At-Risk Afterschool Meals and wish to continue offering meals to children must do so through the Summer Food Service Program. Child care centers serving At-Risk Afterschool Meals should claim meals served to school age children under their child care center claim. At-Risk Sponsors can claim At-Risk meals served through their school's regularly scheduled spring break. If you have questions on how to proceed, please contact your Child Nutrition Consultant for assistance.

### **Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver for CACFP**

A nationwide waiver provided by USDA allows CACFP sponsors to serve meals in a non-congregate setting. CACFP sponsors wishing to utilize this waiver must submit a waiver application to KSDE. This waiver allows meals to be taken off-site to be consumed by a child enrolled in the child care program. Child care centers that have closed due to COVID-19, but are still wanting to provide meals to their enrolled children are eligible to apply for this waiver. Please note that at this time only school sponsors have been given the flexibility to deliver meals to children. **A link to request a non-congregate feeding waiver and complete will be sent in the Update tomorrow.**

School districts across Kansas have established non-congregate feeding sites within their communities. All children ages 1-18 can go to a site to receive a meal. Reach out to your local school district to find out more about the feeding sites available within your community. More information on school provided meals is available later in this update.

### **Food Supply Issues**

KSDE understands that many CACFP sponsors and providers, especially those shopping at local grocery stores, are having difficulty purchasing all of the required components needed to make up a reimbursable meal. KSDE has created a letter that child care staff can take to their local grocery store to try and help providers in being able to purchase more than the maximum limits that have been set on milk and meat in some stores across the state. The letter will be posted soon at [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), CACFP, What's New.



Some school districts are offering to provide meals to children in the care of local day care providers. This is a local level decision but is allowable. Children are required to be seen if a provider wishes to pick up meals from a drive through meal location or from a bus route stop. This allows the person distributing meals to know the number of meals to be provided and is a USDA requirement. Meals are free to any child 1-18. Sponsor and providers participating in the CACFP would NOT be able to claim the meals received from the local school district for reimbursement. The School District would claim the meals. Please find a couple of Q&As on this below:

- Q. If children receive a breakfast and lunch from the school can the daycare provider still provide/claim supper and two snacks?
- A. Yes, as long as the Sponsor and/or provider is approved to serve those meal types in KN-CLAIM.
- Q. If children receive a breakfast and lunch from the school and the Day Care Provider does not serve the breakfast and lunch to the child but rather sends the meals home with the child for consumption at home can the Day Care Provider serve and claim breakfast and lunch?
- A. The breakfast and lunch is *intended* to be eaten for breakfast and lunch.

### Family Style Meal Service

At this time, Family Style Meal Service is not a recommended meal service type due to the shared serving utensils of program participants. It is recommended that sites serve children during this pandemic to avoid the spread of the virus. A COVID-19 and Food Safety resource can be found at [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), CACFP, What's New.

### Meal Contracts

Sponsors that have contracts with other entities to provide meals may need to complete an addendum to reduce the number of meals requested from their vendor as meal attendance at their centers decreases due to COVID-19. Contact Laura Hodgson, [lhodgson@ksde.org](mailto:lhodgson@ksde.org), for assistance.

New information and guidance will continue to be provided in Updates via listserv as available. Stay safe, be healthy and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for feeding children.

### Cheryl, Jill and Julie



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