

# COVID-19 Update

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



March 30, 2020, 1:15 pm

*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*

The Child Nutrition & Wellness team appreciates that 55+ folks participated in the CACFP Town Hall meeting Friday morning. Your input and questions are important to us. Sincere appreciation for the hard work and extra efforts to feed participants during this unprecedented time.

1. **Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver:** USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has provided nationwide approval for States to locally waive specific meal pattern requirements as needed to support access to nutritious meals when certain foods are not available due to the novel coronavirus. Note: This is not a blanket waiver but to be used due to unavailability of product. Sponsors must submit a waiver request to KSDE and obtain approval prior to utilizing this waiver. **To apply for a waiver, go to:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SH2F6FS>. **You must receive an approval email from a Child Nutrition & Wellness team member before use of the Meal Pattern Waiver.**
2. **Nationwide Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Onsite Monitoring Waiver for Sponsoring Organizations:** FNS is waiving specific CACFP onsite monitoring requirements around frequency, number, and nature of onsite reviews for all sponsoring organizations. **To opt in to elect any or all of the following monitoring waivers go to:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KMPZ5W7>.

The waiver options you elect are effective immediately upon completion of the survey and remain in effect until June 30, 2020 or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. KSDE will **not** send a waiver approval email following the completion of the survey.

- For the current review year, CACFP sponsors may conduct two reviews of their CACFP facilities. FNS waives the requirement at 7 CFR 226.16(d)(4)(iii) that sponsoring organizations review each CACFP facility three times each year.
- For the current review year, only one CACFP facility review is required to be unannounced. FNS waives the requirement at 7 CFR 226.16(d)(4)(iii)(A) that at least two of the three reviews must be unannounced.
- FNS waives the requirement at 7 CFR 226.16(d)(4)(iii)(B) that at least one unannounced review must include observation of a meal service.
- FNS waives the requirement at 7 CFR 226.16(d)(4)(iii)(D) that not more than six months may elapse between reviews.
- FNS does not waive the requirement at CFR 226.16(d)(4)(iii)(C) that at least one review must be made during each new facility's first four weeks of Program operations but allows sponsoring organizations to review new CACFP facilities as a desk audit.



3. **Nationwide Non-Congregate Feeding and Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup Waivers:** FNS is allowing state agencies to waive the congregate feeding requirement as well as waive the rule preventing parents and guardians from picking up meals for their children, as long as they protect accountability and integrity. **Sponsors must submit a waiver request to KSDE and receive approval prior to utilizing these waivers.** CACFP Centers that have closed, Head Start Sponsors and Adult Day Care Sponsors, can apply for this waiver at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GBSH9VD>.

#### Food Safety Q & A

- Q.** Parents have asked if they find something in the store that would benefit the child care, can they bring it in for use? Ex. a pack of chicken breasts, or other hard to find items. Can meals be claimed?
- A.** No, parents may not purchase foods on behalf of the Sponsor. There is no guarantee of safe food handling.

#### Reminders:

- New FNS Response to COVID-19 webpage available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>
- USDA's Team Nutrition initiative recently released seven new resources for the CACFP. All resources are now available for download and viewing at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp-training-tools> including an Updated Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

We will provide additional guidance from USDA FNS as it becomes available. As always, if you have questions do not hesitate to email your area Child Nutrition Consultant or the Topeka office staff.

#### Cheryl, Jill and Julie



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