COVID-19 Update

Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during COVID-19 Outbreaks
April 15, 2020


Thanks to everyone who participated in the Town Hall meeting Monday April 14th. We sincerely appreciate your hard work and dedication to providing meals to children.

Required SFSP Training for Renewing SFSP Sponsors: All Sponsors are required to have at least one representative participate in KSDE training for Summer 2020 participation in the SFSP. All SFSP Administrative Training will be conducted via webinar for Summer 2020. SFSP Webinar Training Opportunities will be held:

- April 17th at 9:30 a.m. – https://ksde.zoom.us/j/675746765
- April 23rd at 8:30 a.m. – https://ksde.zoom.us/j/180926346
- April 29th at 2 p.m. – https://ksde.zoom.us/j/477109298

If you are unable to participate in one of the webinars, an online training will be made available at a later date to complete this training requirement. To ensure you complete the training as quickly as possible plan to attend one of the webinars.

Sponsors currently operating the Seamless Summer Option who would like to start providing meals under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) can make that transition if they attend training and complete the necessary paperwork in KN-CLAIM. Training will be held on April 20th at 2 p.m. To join use the following link https://ksde.zoom.us/j/701804793. As long as sponsors participate in training on the 20th, complete the application process, and are approved for the SFSP in KN-CLAIM, meals could be served and claimed under the SFSP beginning May 1st. Email your Child Nutrition Consultant with your Sponsor Number, Sponsor Name, and indicate you would like to have the SFSP application opened in KN-CLAIM.

New USDA Guidance


SP 13-2020: Child Nutrition Program Nationwide Waivers: Questions and Answers

This policy memorandum provides clarifications on questions related to the operation of the Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 public health emergency. Q&As discussed on the call:
#8 Q: What is the maximum number of Program meals and snacks that can be claimed for Federal reimbursement each day?

A: The maximum number of meals or snacks that can be claimed for Federal reimbursement, per child or adult participant, per day, varies by Program:

- NSLP: Up to one lunch per child per day;
- NSLP Afterschool Snack Service: Up to one snack per child per day;
- NSLP Seamless Summer Option: Up to two meals, or one meal and one snack, per child, per day, in any combination except lunch and supper;
- SBP: Up to one breakfast per child per day;
- CACFP Child and Adult Care: Up to two meals and one snack, or two snacks and one meal, per child or adult participant per day;
- CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component: Up to one meal and one snack, per child per day;
- CACFP Emergency Shelters: Up to three meals, per resident 18 years and younger, per day; or
- SFSP: Up to two meals, or one meal and one snack, per child, per day, in any combination except lunch and supper.

Some Program operators participate in multiple Programs. For example, under typical circumstances, in one day, a Program operator may serve a child breakfast through SBP, lunch through NSLP, and supper and snack through CACFP At-Risk. Under the waivers, a child may still participate in more than one program, but in no circumstances shall a child receive more than the number of meals allowed in each Program for which they are eligible. Operators must also ensure children do not receive duplicates of the same meal.

#18 Q: Under the current nationwide waivers allowing non-congregate feeding and no meal time restrictions due to COVID-19, may Child Nutrition Program operators provide food items in bulk, either through pick up or home delivery, without additional waivers?

A: Under current statutory and regulatory authority and in conjunction with recent COVID-19 waivers allowing non-congregate feeding and no meal time restrictions, when providing multiple meals at one time, Program operators may provide bulk items as long as individual meals are easily identifiable as a reimbursable meal. When implementing such a delivery mechanism, Program operators:

- Must include the required food components in the proper minimum amounts for each reimbursable meal being claimed;
- Must ensure that food items are clearly identifiable as making up reimbursable meals;
- Are strongly encouraged to provide menus with directions indicating which items are to be used for each meal and the portion sizes;
- Should consider whether households have access to refrigeration, stoves, microwaves, etc., when providing food that requires refrigeration or further preparation, such as reheating; and
- Should ensure that only minimal preparation is required and that food is not provided as ingredients for recipes that require chopping, mixing, baking, etc.

Note: KSDE CNW has developed a resource Servings in Bulk Packages to assist in correct portion sizes when providing food items in bulk.
SP 14-2020: Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #3

This policy memorandum provides clarifications on questions related to the Nationwide waivers issued by Food and Nutrition Service in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Q&As discussed on the call:

#14 Q: Are sponsors able to keep their CACFP at-risk afterschool care operations going, even if schools are implementing SFSP or SSO?
A: Yes. A sponsor is allowed to keep its CACFP At-Risk operations going while schools are closed, even if the school is serving meals under SFSP or SSO.

#15 Q: Can an SFA or other sponsor that participates in both SFSP or SSO and CACFP At-Risk provide meals and snacks through SSO or SFSP and At-Risk to each participant? Do the Programs have to be operated at the same site or different sites? Can participants pick up multiple meals at once?
A: An SFA or a community organization, if approved to operate both Programs, can locate them at the same or at different sites. The SFA or community organization may allow children to pick up multiple meals from each Program at one time. However, the maximum number of meals that may be offered to each child may not exceed the number of meals allowed by each Program. Under SFSP and SSO, up to two meals or one meal and one snack, per child, per day, in any combination except lunch and supper, are allowed. Under CACFP At-Risk, up to one snack and one meal per child per day are allowed. If the SFA or community organization is operating both Programs at the same site and all the meals for both Programs are picked up at the same time, each Program must keep accurate meal counts and claim only the meals served for that specific Program.

The State agency may approve a plan that includes pick-up of meals for multiple days, up to one week at a time. The State agency should consider the expected duration of the school closure and the capacity of the sponsor to execute such an approach effectively, including meeting State or local food safety requirements.

#18 Q: Do you need to have “And Justice for All” (AJFA) posters on mobile routes for COVID-19 meal distribution?
A: The AJFA poster must be prominently displayed in all facilities and locations that distribute program benefits or administer services. Due to COVID-19, if printed AJFA posters are not available for display, paper copies may be substituted as necessary, including use of the 2015 AJFA poster, if new (2019) posters have not been received. Meals delivered from stationary vans or buses should display the AJFA poster. For vehicles making door-to-door drop deliveries at homes and businesses, the AJFA poster does not need to be displayed.

#21 Q: Is providing auxiliary aides and services required?
A: States are required to provide auxiliary aides and services for those who may need special assistance as long as doing so does not fundamentally alter the nature of the program. Planning for new sites and new methods of delivery should include considering how individuals with disabilities will be identified and served. State agencies should focus on determining how they can help persons with disabilities have equal access to the program(s) and not on establishing additional criteria that participants must meet to receive an accommodation.
#22 Q: May Program operators serving meals through the Summer Food Service Program or the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during an unanticipated school closure serve meals on weekends or previously scheduled days off, such as spring break and teacher work days?

A: Yes. Where schools are closed for an unanticipated school closure due to COVID-19, with State agency approval, SFSP and SSO service institutions may serve meals on days when schools had originally planned to be closed, including weekends, spring break, and other previously scheduled days off. After careful review, FNS has determined that, because the unanticipated pandemic school closures justify continued operation of SFSP and SSO, such meals may be served when there is an ongoing unanticipated closure due to COVID-19. Please note that after your school year ends, SFSP and SSO operate under normal summer conditions (which also includes weekends and holidays with State agency approval). Note: USDA FNS did clarify that as the National COVID-19 waivers and Q&A’s state “one weeks” of meals can be served and now with the allowance of being able to serve meals on weekends and/or holidays, per SP 14-2020; a Sponsor can distribute seven days of meals on one day, if it is in their capacity to do so and if KSDE CNW approves in the waiver application. If the Sponsor has updated their application and KSDE CNW approves a distribution method for a Sponsor to serve seven days of meals, on one day, it would be allowable.

Additional Clarifications provided regarding SP 11-2020: Questions and Answers related to the Child Nutrition Program Monitoring and Reporting Nationwide Waivers

#22 Q: What flexibilities does the Nationwide Waiver make available for SFSP sponsors as they conduct site reviews?

A: SFSP sponsors may elect to waive onsite review requirements at 7 CFR 225.15(d), which require sponsors to visit each of their sites at least once during the first week of operation and to review food service operations at each site at least once during the first four weeks of operation. FNS understands that SFSP sponsor reviews of sites have traditionally only occurred onsite, however, FNS strongly encourages SFSP sponsoring organizations complete site monitoring and review sites offsite, to the maximum extent practicable. Additionally, SFSP sponsors may also postpone SFSP site reviews until normal summer operations (May through August 2020). If a SFSP site is only operating during the COVID-19 emergency, the SFSP sponsor must conduct the required review but may elect to do so offsite.

Note: Kansas Sponsors will be provided details about onsite review flexibilities during the required SFSP Administrative Training.

New Resources Now Available

Two new resources have been developed based upon your requests and are now available at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What’s New and also posted at www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Program, What’s New, Bad Weather Contingency Plan Considerations and School Menu Ideas During COVID-19.

Please call or email if you have any questions or if we can help provide technical assistance.

Cheryl, Jill and Julie
For more information, contact:

Cheryl S. Johnson  
Director, Child Nutrition & Wellness  
(785) 296-2276  
www.kn-eat.org  
csjohnson@ksde.org

Kansas State Department of Education  
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212  
(785) 296-3201  
www.ksde.org

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