COVID-19 Update
Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during COVID-19 Outbreaks
April 23, 2020, 4:00 pm

Sent by listserv to SNP Sponsors and SFSP Sponsors and posted at
www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New and
www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Program, What's New

We appreciate the amazing attendance at Town Hall Meetings and for the SFSP Renewing and SFSP
New Sponsor webinars. Kansas Sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs truly make extra efforts to learn
and be informed so that Child Nutrition Programs are administered with integrity! Kudos to you all!

**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. There is still one
opportunity to attend a live webinar training:
- April 29th at 2 p.m. – [https://ksde.zoom.us/j/477109298](https://ksde.zoom.us/j/477109298)
An online training will be made available at a later date to complete this training requirement if you
have not been able to attend a webinar.

**New USDA Guidance**
All COVID-19 Policy Memos from USDA are posted on the USDA FNS COVID-19 webpage at:

Be sure to access and read the entire Q&A documents.

**Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in Child Nutrition Programs**
USDA is extending this nationwide waiver that allows 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 through May 31, 2020, or until expiration of the federally declared
public health emergency, whichever is earlier. USDA FNS is offering this flexibility in short-term
increments and will reevaluate the continued need for the waiver as the situation continues to
evolve. 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](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SH2F6FS).
Elections and approvals under the
initial waiver will continue under this extension with no further action needed.

**Summer Food Service Program Nationwide Waivers: COVID-19: Child Nutrition Responses
#14 – 17**
Pursuant to section 2202(a) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (the Act) (P.L. 116-127),
and in light of the exceptional circumstances of this public health emergency, the Food and Nutrition
Service (FNS) is establishing additional Nationwide Waivers to support access to nutritious meals
while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus. The following waivers apply
automatically to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and in two cases, to the National School
Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO), in all States that elect to use them, without further
application through September 30, 2020. Kansas has elected to use these waivers and Sponsors will
apply to use each of these waivers as needed on the Sponsor and Site Applications in KN-CLAIM.
When electing Offer Vs Serve, please contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant for technical assistance on how this could be implemented during SFSP non-congregate meal service.

- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites in the Summer Food Service Program and the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option;
- Nationwide Waiver to Waive First Week Site Visits in the Summer Food Service Program;
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the Summer Food Service Program; and
- Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions in the Summer Food Service Program and the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option.

This guidance is available at the FNS Response to COVID-19 website: https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19.

SP15-2020 SFSP08-2020: Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #4

This memorandum includes questions and answers intended to provide clarification to State agencies and Program operators on the operation of the Child Nutrition Programs during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

Civil Rights – All Child Nutrition Programs

7. Is the Nondiscrimination Statement required on informational materials and websites?

States are not relieved of their obligation to include the required Nondiscrimination Statement (NDS) on all printed and electronic program materials made available to applicants, participants, and potentially eligible persons for public information, public education, or public distribution. This includes, but is not limited to, information pertaining to eligibility, benefits, services, the location of local facilities or service delivery points, and hours of service.

If the size of the material is too small to include the full statement, the material must, at a minimum, include the following statement in print in the same font size as the main text: “This institution is an equal opportunity provider.” On websites, the Nondiscrimination Statement (NDS) or a link to it, must be included on the home page of the program information.

Recognizing that print media (television, radio, and Internet announcements) are generally short in duration, the full NDS must be provided to the media outlet but does not need to be read or printed in its entirety. The single line, short NDS is sufficient to meet the requirement. Additionally, for programs that include a funding statement at the conclusion of the announcement, it is allowable for the short NDS to follow the funding statement. For example, “Pennsylvania WIC is funded by the USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

8. Will racial and ethnic data be collected if it is not provided by applicants during telephone interviews and online systems?

For current households, states may use existing school meal enrollment applications. For new applications, states are encouraged to utilize information from other State Education agencies, or from other household public assistance benefits received such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

9. Will meal pattern waivers affect a program operator’s responsibility to make meal modifications for participants with disabilities?
During this public health emergency, States and program operators are not relieved of their obligation to provide meal modifications for participants with disabilities. When planning a non-congregate meal service, State agencies and program operators should consider how individuals who require meal modifications will be identified and served.

**Food Safety, Personnel Safety and Contingency Plans - Update**

Responses to inquiries regarding contingency planning, based on information received from the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control:

- CDC recommends regular monitoring of the temperatures of staff using an infrared thermometer. Use of temperature screening is a local decision, unless it becomes required by a county health department. Employers who decide to implement temperature screening must clearly communicate the protocol and consistently implement the practice. For example, a decision was made to screen KSDE staff as they enter the Landon Building premises.
- If a program encounters a situation when a staff member receives a diagnosis of COVID-19, the facility does not need to shut down completely. Facility surfaces can be immediately disinfected and made ready for a back-up team. It is important to ensure the disinfectant has the appropriate contact time with the surfaces and that food-contact surfaces are wiped down again for food prep.
- When making a determination of close contact, remember that close contact is currently defined as within 6 feet of a confirmed/suspected COVID-19 positive individual for a prolonged period, including within the 48 hours prior to symptom onset. Close contact also includes having direct contact with the infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (in other words, you were coughed on or sneezed on by an individual with the virus.) Unlike manufacturing and processing facilities who must work in closer contact with each other due to facility set up, child nutrition program staff can more easily create physical distancing in their working environments. Physical distancing, coupled with appropriate personal protective equipment significantly reduces risk. Short term exposure, such as walking past someone, is not “close contact” (Make sure to note how SFS is different from packing plants where there are significant outbreaks occurring.)
- To further reduce risk of exposure, facility maintenance can increase building ventilation rates or increase the percentage of outdoor air that circulates into the indoor system.
- The FDA and CDC have determined that the risk of this strain of the corona virus transmitting to humans through food or food packaging materials is low. If practical, any packaging that has been in close contact with an individual who has symptoms associated with COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19, could be wiped down with sanitizing solution.

The materials from the webinars Serving Safe Meals During COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness During COVID-19 are available upon request to Cindy at cljohnson@ksde.org and recordings of both webinars are available on the KSDE Training Portal. To access the training portal, go to: https://learning.ksde.org/.

**Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

Q. Is meal delivery allowed in CACFP At-Risk?
A. No.

Q. Is there a more efficient way to count meals for multiple days at point of delivery/pick-up?
A. Yes, KSDE does have an example of a form that has been approved for use to count multiple meals being served. Email your area Child Nutrition Consultant if you would like a copy of the example.
Q. Can COVID-19 Emergency Procurement flexibilities be used as the basis to not complete formal competitive procurement for school year 2020-2021?
A. No, it is only to be used for the time of the federally declared national emergency for COVID-19 emergency meals.

Q. Do menus have to be posted in the SFSP?
A. No menus are not required to be posted at the meal pick up sites for the SFSP. It would be required for the reimbursable meal to be identified in the SSO.

Q. How is attendance being tracked for required SFSP training?
A. Child Nutrition & Wellness Administrative staff are tracking training on a spreadsheet.

Q. How do Sponsors upload training for staff and volunteers this year?
A. Upload on the checklist tab in KN-CLAIM. Contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant if you have questions.

Seamless Summer Option State Match Reimbursement - Update
Those Sponsors operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) will receive the state match (.04 cents per lunch).

Professional Development Opportunities for Summer 2020
Since face-to-face classes are not an option at this time, KSDE plans to deliver professional development through electronic delivery systems. A series of professional development classes will be offered in May, June, and July, each delivering from 1 hour to 3 hours of training. Serving Safe Summer Meals is already scheduled for Wednesday, May 13 and Food Safety Basics is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19. Plans are being made to offer Kitchen Math Made Easy, Food Buying Guide, Implementing HACCP in Kansas, Safe Receiving and Storing and other new training classes throughout the summer. A schedule of classes, dates, times and ZOOM links will be provided in early May. Management level classes will also be part of the online portfolio. The 8-hour Kansas Food Safety in Schools will be offered in June. The 8-hour Kansas Nutrition 101 will be offered in July. The 6-hour Kansas HACCP will be offered in August. The details are still being worked out, but will be posted on the KSDE CNW website and announced in the Monthly Updates.

School Nutrition Program Administrative Training for the 2020-2021 School Year
Program Renewal, Administrative Update, Determining Eligibility, Verification, Nutrition Standards for School Meals, Calculating Components and Is This Meal Reimbursable Training will all be delivered through webinars. A complete list of School Nutrition Program training opportunities will be available next week and provided in an Update Memo.

Pandemic EBT Benefit
The Department of Children and Families continues to work to receive approval from USDA for the Kansas plan for P-EBT benefits to children eligible for free and reduced price lunches. The Child Nutrition and Wellness team will provide a listserv message to all School Nutrition Program Authorized Representatives and Food Service Directors as well as a message on the Superintendent listserv once the plan is approved and provide the action steps required for Kansas Sponsors.
Federal Court Ruling
As of today, USDA FNS has not issued any official statements and/or guidance and/or rescinded any Whole Grain, Milk, and Sodium waivers based on the federal court decision in Maryland. MPRO is currently awaiting an official USDA FNS statement on this lower court’s decision. Therefore, as of today and/or until further guidance has been issued; the Final Rule regarding Whole Grain, Milk, and Sodium waivers, is still applicable and no change is needed for SSO meals.

Please call or email if you have any questions or if we can help provide technical assistance. Every day, the CNW is provided more and more inspiring and uplifting stories of how hard you all are working on the front lines of this pandemic providing nutritious and safe meals for Kansas kids. Thank you for all you are doing and please capture your stories and heroic efforts at #FuelingKSKids.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.