COVID-19 Update

Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during COVID-19 Outbreaks
May 1, 2020, 2:30 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

Child Nutrition Professional Hero Day is May 1, 2020! A thank you message from the KSDE
Child Nutrition & Wellness team is available for you to view and share with your staff at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZnc0YOCE1A&t=14s. Every day we see more and more
inspiring and uplifting stories of how hard Child Nutrition Professionals are working on the front
lines providing healthy and safe meals for Kansas kids. You are working through rain, sleet, wind,
snow or sun to serve meals, smiles, encouragement and care to children all over Kansas. Today we
are celebrating and being ever so thankful for each of you and all you do to fuel the future of
Kansas.  #FuelingKSKids

What is Pandemic-EBT authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R 6201)?

Pandemic-EBT (Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer or P-EBT) is a state option to provide food
assistance in the event of school closures lasting 5 or more days to all children who would have
otherwise received a free or reduced price meal at school. This includes all children at schools
implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). In Kansas, the Department for Children and
Families (DCF) in collaboration with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) developed a
plan to offer the P-EBT and recently received approval from USDA.

The Pandemic-EBT provides funds for food equal to the value of the meals the child would have
received at school. For children in households that already receive Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, the additional P-EBT benefits will be added to their existing EBT
card. For children who do not already receive SNAP, DCF will provide these children with EBT cards.
Federal law H.R. 6201 authorizes the information sharing necessary to implement P-EBT.

To assist all eligible Kansas children to receive the Pandemic-EBT benefit, all Kansas Sponsors of the
National School Lunch Program will be asked to complete two steps via a listserv message you will
receive on or around May 11th.

1. **To prepare to respond to this request** please start working now to compile the most
   recent Benefit's Issuance list of all students aged 5-18 (updated information) during the
   2019-2020 school year eligible for free and reduced price meals via income application. This
does include those eligible due to Migrant, Homeless, or Runaway Status. In schools electing
Community Eligibility Provision the list should include all students that attend the school.
This list must contain student first name, student last name, eligibility status, and date
determined eligible. If available, also include head of household first name, head of
household last name, address and student(s) date(s) of birth. Excel is the preferred upload
Once DCF has the secure portal ready for you to upload this information (estimated to
be around May 11th), the listserv message will be sent to all Authorized Representatives,
Food Service Directors and Superintendents.
2. **At this time, you can start compiling an email list of those households eligible for free or reduced price meals.** In the listserv notification that you will receive around May 11th, you will also be asked to send a notification to the households that are receiving benefits via a free and reduced price meal application with information on how to apply for P-EBT benefits using a confidential link within this email language (current estimate from DCF is approx. May 23rd).

“**Due to your household’s eligibility for free or reduced price meals for SY2019-2020, your student(s) are eligible for a Pandemic EBT benefit to equal the value of the meals the child(ren) would have received at school if school had not been closed due to COVID-19. If your household already receives Food Assistance, TANF (Cash Assistance), Child Care or Medicaid benefits no further action is needed. This benefit will automatically be added to your EBT card. If you do not see the P-EBT benefit added on your EBT card by June 5th, then you will need to apply. To apply for this benefit, go to (insert confidential link). This confidential link is for your household only and not to be shared with others. If you have questions, call 1-888-369-4777. Kansas will continue to comply with civil rights requirements, to include providing equal access to individuals with disabilities and individuals who are limited English proficient.”**

Note: The information in the email must only be distributed by direct email to the qualifying households and cannot be posted on a public website or sent to all enrolled children. DCF currently estimates that the Parent Portal will go live to accept applications around May 23rd.

We will continue to provide additional information about P-EBT as available. You may continue to determine eligibility for free and reduced price meal benefits to allow families to be eligible for P-EBT. You If you have questions as you begin to compile the Benefit’s Issuance list or the email list please reach out to your area Child Nutrition Consultant or anyone on the CNW team.

**New USDA Waivers**

- #18 - Nationwide Waiver of Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments. Not being elected in Kansas because all Sponsors do an annual assessment through the Wellness Impact Tool.
- #19 - Nationwide Waiver of Food Service Management Contract Duration. CNW is contacting those Sponsors that could be impacted by this waiver and determining if there is a need to elect.
- #20 - Nationwide Wavier of Annual Review Requirements for the CACFP. This waiver will be elected by KSDE.
- #21 - Nationwide Waiver to Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations Through June 30. (It also includes the ability for Sponsors to apply to participate in the SFSP at any time. June 15th deadline is removed.) KSDE will elect this waiver.

A resource is being developed by CNW to provide information about all of the waivers in one document. It will be posted at www.kn-eat.org, SNP, What’s New and also at www.kn-eat.org, SFSP, What’s New by early next week.

**New FDA Resources Available**

Two excellent FDA resources are now posted at www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Program, What’s New: What to do if you have COVID-19 Confirmed Positive or Exposed Workers" and “Use of Respirations, Facemasks, and Cloth Face Coverings.” Contact Cindy Johnson for the checklist that she shared during the Town Hall at cljohnson@ksde.org.
Q & As about Food Donations

Q: Can Sponsors accept donation of foods and use them in the program?
USDA and the Kansas Department of Agriculture permit schools to receive donations of intact foods under certain conditions. For food donation to be accomplished in a manner that provides safe food to those in need, this practice must be conducted under the same conditions as food offered for sale.

- Foods, donated to the program, cannot be prepared foods.
- Foods, donated to the program, must come from commercial suppliers/licensed food establishments under regulatory control. Controlled processing and post processing handling are required for the safe distribution of donated food.
- Foods, donated to the program, can be used as part of a reimbursable meal.
- Foods cannot be accepted from home kitchens. Home kitchens and other similar environments allow open access to many people and are frequently implicated in the microbial contamination of food.
- Parents may not purchase or donate foods on behalf of the Sponsor. There is no guarantee of safe food handling.

Q: If the Sponsor has contracted with a Food Service Management Company, can food donations be accepted for use in the program?
If the program site is operated by a Food Service Management Company, in a fixed price contract, the Sponsor pays a set price regardless of donations being received and/or not received by the FSMC. As the FSMC is a private identity, how they procure and/or receive donated items to prepare their meals may or not be in the Sponsor/FSMC contract.

If the Food Service Management Company accepts the donation, this would be up to their code of ethics, not the Sponsor’s. How the FSMC gets their food is up to them and if there isn't a provision in the contract to credit the Sponsor for the donated items; they would not be required to do so. If the processor reached out directly to the Sponsor, then the Sponsor can decide if it’s in their best interest to accept this donation and determine how to work with their FSMC, since they are contracted to prepare meals and the Sponsor likely doesn't have the resources to accept and prepare meals without them.

Depending on who receives the donation, it would be prudent for the Sponsor and FSMC to consider their Code of Ethics to assure they are within ethical practice of receiving donations and who/how they will benefit from the donation. The Sponsor should review their FSMC contract with their legal counsel to ensure any donations which resulted in a potentially lower meal cost, does not create a material change to the contract.

Kansans Can Awards – Calling all Super Heroes to Apply by June 30!
Nomination Form is available at: www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What’s New, Kansans Can 2019-2020 Best Practice Award Nomination Form

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