Providing information to everyone about frequently asked questions from today!

1. If you have requested the Waiver Application for non-congregate meals due to COVID-19 and it has not yet been opened for you to work on completing the questions, please contact Julie Henry at jhenry@ksde.org.

2. As the global COVID-19 pandemic intensifies, shuttering schools and making it difficult to feed students, school food authorities (SFAs) and other community organizations can seek financial assistance through emergency grants from No Kid Hungry. For further information and to see if you’re eligible for a grant, complete the application process from No Kid Hungry.

3. Potentially hazardous foods must be held at proper temperatures or have time controls applied. This can be challenging when serving reimbursable meals in unconventional ways. However, the use of these innovative delivery systems will ensure children have access to nutritious foods while limiting exposure to COVID-19. Meals served in child nutrition programs must be prepared according to State and local health and safety standards.

4. Cooked potentially hazardous hot foods must be cooked to proper internal temperatures before service. It would not be acceptable to send unprepared menu items home with children. For example, a sponsor could not send home portions of frozen raw chicken nuggets with instructions for preparing the food at home. A sponsor could properly cook the chicken nuggets, making them a ready-to-eat food. The chicken nuggets could be delivered hot, or the chicken nuggets could be cooled within standards and sent to the household to reheat, if reheating is desired. For meals designated for additional days, a sponsor could send shelf-stable, individually packaged foods that meet USDA’s summer food requirements or send ready-to-eat foods.

5. USDA was consulted again regarding the question if the child has to be present in order to provide meals. This is the guidance to date. If this guidance changes, you will be informed as soon as possible. The only exception regarding seeing a child is highlighted in Food Delivery section of the Update from March 17th. If the parent completes a Consent for Disclosure (See Chapter 6 in Food Service Facts for a Prototype Form) for a meal delivered specifically to a specific child it is not necessary to actually see the child.

6. KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness Dietitian Specialist, Emily Brinkman, has developed two weeks of sample grab and go menus with production records that meet the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option meal pattern. This resource is posted at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What’s New.

7. Reminder - Production records must be completed for each meal.
8. You do need to have head count sheets for each meal type served, so one sheet for breakfasts served and one sheet for lunches served. Be sure that you are marking one meal taken per child on the appropriate head count sheet. For example, if today you give each child present 2 lunches and 2 breakfasts, you will mark off 2 meals on the lunch head count sheet, and 2 meals on the breakfast sheet. You will need to have new head count sheets for breakfast and lunch on the next day you serve. Be sure your head count sheets are dated and signed by the person providing the program oversight. We would recommend that you date the sheets with the date the meals are served. So, on today’s lunch sheet, for instance, state “lunches for Wednesday 3/18/2020 and Thursday 3/19/2020”. A prototype meal count document can be found at www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Program, Administration, Meal Service Forms.

We have heard that amazing numbers of Kansas children are receiving meals due to your efforts. We sincerely appreciate all each of you are doing to provide healthy meals during this time of uncertainty for Kansas families.

Cheryl, Jill and Julie

For more information, contact:

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