COVID-19 Update

Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during COVID-19 Outbreaks

March 19, 2020, 5:00 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

Last night, President Trump signed H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which contains several provisions to support the operation of child nutrition programs working to serve students during coronavirus-related school closures. Notably, the bill:

1. Provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to grant states with child nutrition program waivers that may increase costs to the federal government. This will allow the Department to consider more options to help child nutrition providers continue serving children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Provides the Secretary authority to: 1) issue nationwide waivers; 2) allow all child and adult care centers to operate as non-congregate sites; and 3) waive the meal pattern requirements if there is a disruption to the food supply.

3. Authorizes a Pandemic EBT program, which will provide food assistance to families with children whose schools are impacted by extended closures five days or more due to COVID-19.

As soon as KSDE receives implementing guidance from USDA, it will be conveyed in an update. Until that time, there is no change in guidance that has been provided to date.

Answer to a frequently asked question from today:

Q. Our milk supplier has indicated that half pint cartons of milk may not be available as early as next week. Can we still claim meals if milk is not available?

A. If emergency conditions prevent a sponsor that normally has a supply of fluid milk from obtaining delivery of such milk, the State Agency (KSDE) may approve the service of meals without the milk during the emergency period. If milk is temporarily unavailable indicate on the production record with an * next to milk and include a note at the bottom of the production record that documents *unable to obtain ½ pints of milk form vendor due to unavailability. (NSLP/SSO: 7 CFR 210.10(d)(ii) (2) Inadequate fluid milk supply and SFSP: 7 CFR 226.16 (f) (6) Temporary unavailability of milk).

As always, if you have questions please contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant or the Topeka office.

Cheryl, Jill and Julie

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