



COVID-19 Response: Child Nutrition Programs

Child Nutrition Programs
Policy and Program Development Division





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USDA is working with all of our partners to ensure a thorough and coordinated response to this pandemic.

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FNS COVID-19 Website

- Find information about Agency-wide efforts to respond to COVID-19
- Includes Child Nutrition Program waivers and guidance materials

[https://www.fns.usda.gov/
disaster/pandemic/
covid-19](https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19)



Nationwide Waivers



Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- Title II, COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response Act
- Allows Nationwide Waivers to support access to the Child Nutrition Programs
- Waivers apply automatically to all States that elect to use them



Nationwide Waiver: Non-congregate Meals

- Issued March 20, 2020
- Waives the requirement to serve meals in congregate settings
- Effective through June 30, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier



What does this mean for schools?

- Meals do not have to be consumed on-site or in a group setting
- Creative meal service methods are welcome, including meal delivery and grab-and-go
- Includes National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program



Nationwide Waiver: Meal Service Times

- Issued March 20, 2020
- Allows meals to be served outside traditional times to maximize flexibility
- Effective through June 30, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier



What does this mean for schools?

- Allows State agencies to adjust the meal service time requirements
- States may collaborate with local operators to determine what adjustments would be the most helpful to staff and children



Nationwide Waiver: Afterschool Activity

- Issued March 20, 2020
- Waives the requirement to provide an enrichment activity with the afterschool meal or snack service
- Effective through June 30, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier



What does this mean for schools?



- Allows flexibility to serve afterschool meals and snacks without an education or enrichment activity
- Includes afterschool snacks served through the National School Lunch Program, and afterschool meals and snacks served through the At-Risk Afterschool component of Child and Adult Care Food Program

Nationwide Waiver: Meal Pattern

- Issued March 25, 2020
- Allows State agencies to waive meal pattern requirements *on a case-by-case basis*
- Effective through April 30, 2020, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier



What does this mean for schools?



- Local program operators must contact the State agency for approval to use this waiver
- State agencies will consider requests that are:
 - Targeted and justified, and
 - Based upon disruptions to the availability of food products resulting from COVID-19
- FNS encourages Program operators to meet the nutrition standards to the greatest extent possible

Nationwide Waiver: Parent Pick-up

- Issued March 25, 2020
- Allows parents and guardians to pick up meals and bring them home to their children
- Effective through June 30, 2020, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier





What does this mean for schools?

- When a non-congregate waiver is also in place, program operators may distribute take-home meals to a child's parent or guardian
- State agencies must develop a plan to ensure:
 - Meals only go to parents or guardians of eligible children, and
 - Duplicate meals are not distributed for any child

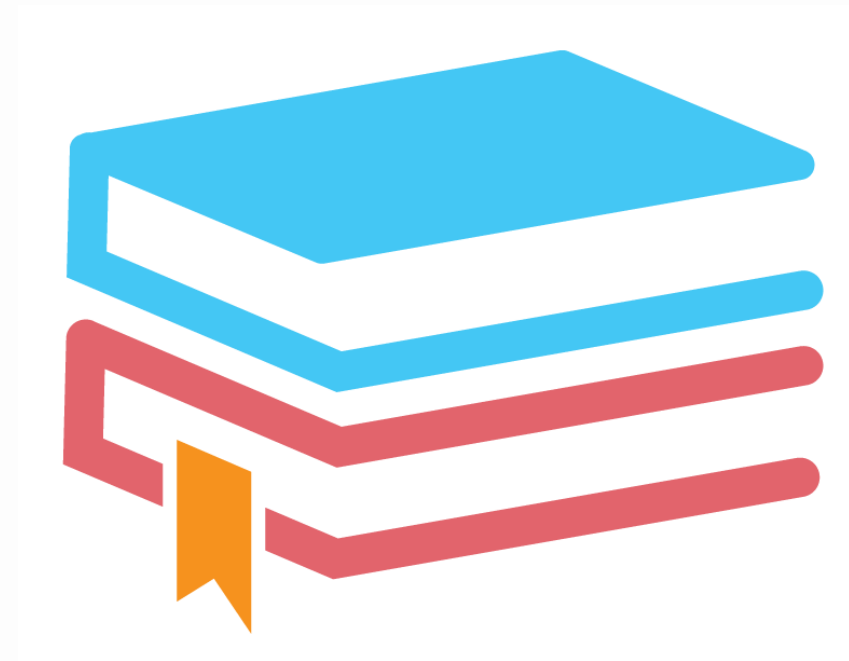
Nationwide Waiver: On-site Monitoring

- Issued March 27, 2020
- Waives the requirement for the State agency to conduct monitoring on site
- Effective through June 30, 2020, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier



What does this mean for schools?

- The requirement for on-site monitoring is suspended to support social distancing
- FNS encourages, to the maximum extent practicable, State agencies and schools continue monitoring activities of program operations offsite (e.g., through a desk audit)



Nationwide Waiver: 60-day Reporting

- Issued April 1, 2020
- Waives the 60-day claims requirements for States, school food authorities, and sponsors
- Applies to claims covering operations in January and February 2020
- Extends deadlines for 30 calendar days



What does this mean for schools?

- School food authorities have an additional 30 days to submit claims for January and February 2020
- Program operators should continue to complete their 60-day reporting requirements in a timely fashion to the extent practicable
- Also applies to the Summer Food Service Program and Child and Adult Care Food Program





Statewide Waivers and Program Guidance



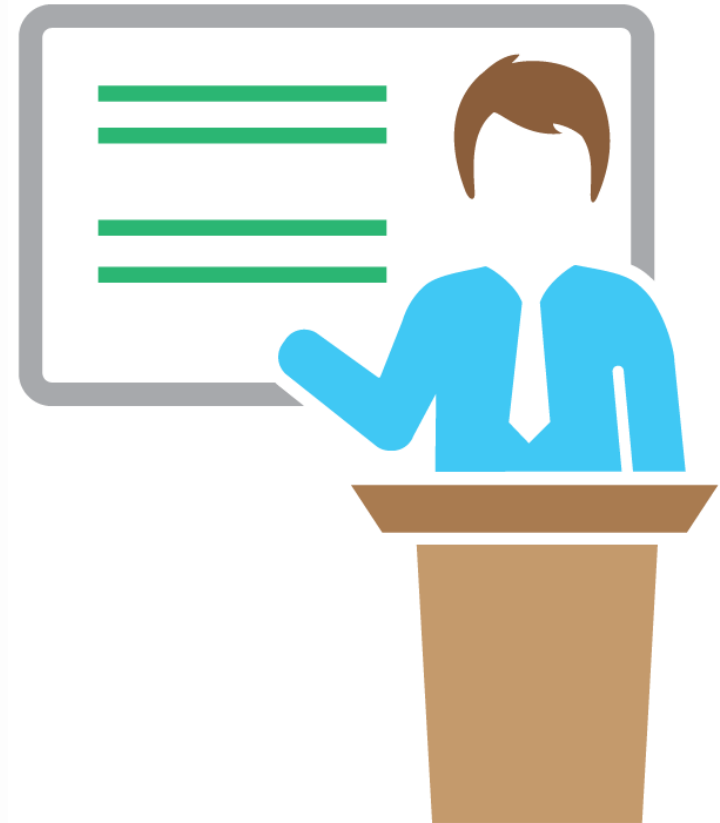
Statewide Area Eligibility Waivers

- Issued to individual States
- Allows non-area eligible Summer Food Service and/or Seamless Summer Option sponsors to operate open sites in areas approved by the State agency
- Effective through June 30, 2020, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier



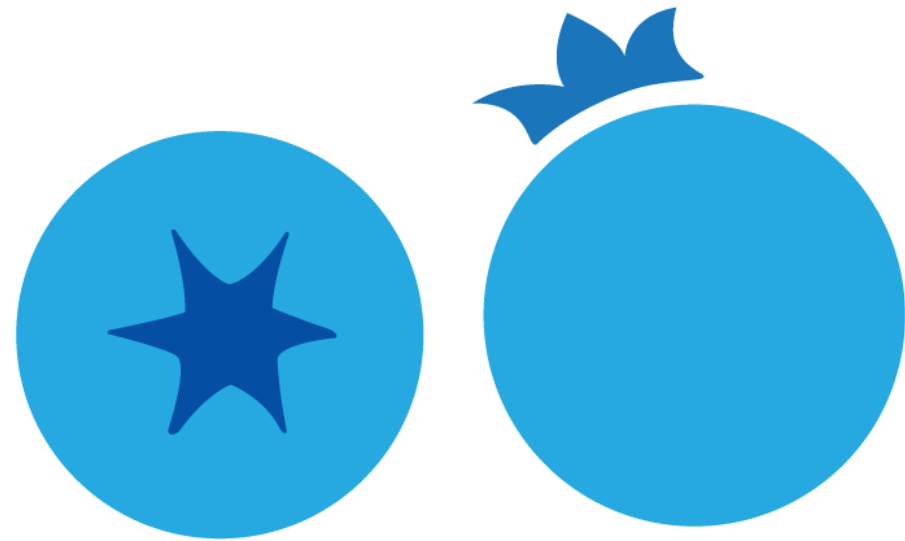
What does this mean for schools?

- If approved by the State, sponsors may operate open sites that are not located in area eligible areas
- New meal sites must target benefits to children in need
- States should work with local Program operators in developing their plans



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Guidance

- Issued April 9, 2020 (SP 12-2020)
- Answers questions regarding Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program operations during unanticipated school closures due to COVID-19
- Effective as of January 27, 2020 through June 30, 2020, or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier



More Questions and Answers

- SP 11-2020, CACFP 06-2020, SFSP 05-2020: Questions and Answers related to the Child Nutrition Program Monitoring and Reporting Nationwide Waivers (April 9, 2020)
- SP 13-2020: Child Nutrition Program Nationwide Waivers: Questions and Answers (April 11, 2020)
- SP 14- 2020: Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #3 (April 11, 2020)



Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

- Authorized by Congress
- Provides assistance to families of children impacted by school closures
- Children who would normally receive free or reduced price school meals are eligible under this provision
- As of April 16, 2 States have been approved for P-EBT





Questions?

