



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

May 7, 2020

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall 5-13-20

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/96046622057?pwd=TDVjM1hXUW1DM2hmQVINWFEzRFJhUT09>

Password: 1f5Ee8

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference Code: 806533

Topic: Town Hall 5-20-20

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/95358978772?pwd=bXZEa2x6ZIB3aU1NemJyVUR3dzZTUT09>

Password: 0zNMWR

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference Code: 806533

Topic: Town Hall 5-27-20

Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/91785563913?pwd=UGxpRDQ0dGNCCcG5XbkJt1Z6cXdlQT09>

Password: 6UyZpY

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference Code: 806533

Food Safety Inspection Requests During School Closures

Schools are required by the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 to obtain two food safety inspections each school year. In a recent meeting with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), we were told that second inspections may or may not occur at this time. The typical school inspection schedule is September/March and October/April, allowing for six months between each inspection. Because COVID-19 and school closures happened during the second inspection timeframe, second inspections will most likely not occur this year.

Question: I have a school site that is operating a feeding site. Should I request a second inspection?

Answer: Yes, continue to request a second inspection. Document that you requested the inspection and obtain a letter or email from the local health department (LHD) if they cannot do a second inspection.

Question: If a site is closed, do I need to request a second inspection?

Answer: No, a closed site does not need a second inspection.

Question: I was just contacted by the LHD and all they reviewed were my Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Is this considered an inspection?

Answer: At this time, it is very likely the LHD logged this as an inspection. Please contact the LHD and ask them to send you a copy of the inspection.

Question: I received a phone call from the LHD and was asked quite a few questions about how we are operating at this time. Was this an inspection even though the inspector did not come and physically inspect the site?

Answer: The LHD may be crediting a phone call/question session as an inspection but may not have indicated this to the school. Please contact the LHD and ask them to send you a copy of the inspection.

Question: Will we be required to enter the dates of the two most recent inspections in the MEGS+ CNP application?

Answer: Yes. If you were unable to get a second inspection, please indicate this on the Site Information page of the application and state the reason why. You may enter COVID-19 and school closure as possible reasons in the text box.

Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment Waiver

The Michigan Department of Education is pleased to announce a nationwide waiver for the Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment. The intent of this waiver is to support Local Education Agencies (LEA) unable to complete a triennial assessment of the local school wellness policies by June 30, 2020, due to school closures as a result of COVID-19.

At a minimum, assessments must be conducted once every three years as described in 7 CFR 210.31(e); this is referred to as the triennial assessment. Resources regarding Local Wellness Policy and the triennial assessment, including the MDE Triennial Assessment template, can be found at [LWP Resources](#).¹

The first Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment is due June 30, 2020. LEAs have two options for adhering to this deadline. First, LEAs that are prepared to complete their assessment by June 30, 2020, are encouraged to do so. Second,

LEAs may choose to accept the new deadline and instead complete their first triennial assessment by June 30, 2021.

LEAs wishing to accept this new deadline of June 30, 2021, must notify the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Health and Nutrition Services, by June 15, 2020. Please complete the [Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment Waiver](#)² survey to accept this waiver. Completion of this survey indicates approval of the assessment deadline extension to June 30, 2021.

This waiver along with other Unanticipated School Closure waivers for Michigan can be found at [Michigan USC Waivers](#).³

Please contact the School Nutrition Programs unit at 517-241-5374 or MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov or your program analyst with any questions regarding the triennial assessment.

Building Healthy Communities Program

For the 2020-2021 school year, grades K-12 schools may apply for the Building Healthy Communities program to address the health and wellness of students and staff. Building Healthy Communities is a school-wide initiative designed to prevent childhood obesity and create healthy school environments.

- Schools with grades K-12 are eligible for the [Step Up for School Wellness Program](#).⁴ [Applications](#)⁵ are due **September 30, 2020**. This flexible model is designed to help schools make smaller targeted improvements to their environment by allowing them to self-select resources focused on healthy eating, physical activity, and social and emotional learning.

Go to bcbsm.com/buildhealth⁶ to review eligibility information and program description. In addition, find information on how to access informational webinars, conference calls, and online applications.

Blue Cross[®] Blue Shield[®] of Michigan, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association, Michigan Fitness Foundation, Michigan State University Extension, United Dairy Industry of Michigan, University of Michigan and Wayne State University Center for Health and Community Impact are working together to improve student health and transform school environments through Building Healthy Communities.

Training Corner

Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar

During this time of necessary social distancing, it is very important for the field to have access to all the virtual trainings available to them, to help them continue to do their jobs. If you are offering an online/virtual training, please fill out and submit this questionnaire: [I want my training added to the MI Nutrition Training Calendar.](#)⁷ Be sure to fill out ALL of the information including NA if the question does not apply. Trainings cannot be added to the calendar without the complete information.

Please visit the [Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar](#),⁸ a one-stop-shop calendar that lists child nutrition trainings across the state. The more trainings listed, the better the calendar will be for our Child Nutrition Programs!

If you have questions, contact MDE-MINutritionTraining@michigan.gov.

[How to Access the MI Nutrition Training Calendar](#)⁹

No Kid Hungry Webinar – Menu Planning for Non-Congregate Meals

Cold meals or re-heatable meals? Individually portioned items or bulk components? Planning menus for non-congregate meal service can be a challenge, especially as the weather turns warmer. Tune into this webinar to learn about planning and procuring healthy, nutritious meals for kids in your community - and about keeping those meals safe on hotter days. You'll hear from Jen McNeil from LunchAssist, Aleshia Hall-Campbell from the Institute on Child Nutrition, and Miguel Villareal from San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

When: Tuesday, May 19 at 2:00 pm ET

To Register: [Webinar Registration](#)¹⁰

School Nutrition Programs Training – Update

During this time of necessary social distancing, MDE has canceled scheduled in-person trainings for the time being. Instead, MDE will begin offering virtual training on various topics. Please check back periodically at the [MDE Training Website Page](#)¹¹ to see what is planned.

Questions of the Week

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Training

Question: My staff has received training in the Unanticipated School Closure (USC) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) during COVID-19. We plan to do traditional SFSP meals after June 30. Does my staff still need to do traditional SFSP training?

Answer: Yes. USC SFSP Training does not take the place of traditional SFSP Training. All SFSP staff are required to be trained annually (sponsors list this date in the SFSP MEGS+ application). Sponsors are required to attend MDE SFSP Training at least once every 3 years, although we encourage sponsors to attend annually. Due to all of the in-person MDE SFSP Trainings being cancelled this year, sponsors and staff will be able to take [online training](#).¹² that will be available starting Friday, May 8, 2020.

SFSP Sponsors will need to register (**use Access Code: 1234**) and complete the Planning and Administering the SFSP 2020 (Michigan – 100) course. The date the SFSP Training is completed should be entered into the SFSP MEGS+ application.

Please note the [SFSP Training website](#).¹² is a newer website and certain browsers or security settings might block the webpage.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Update

Question: MDE does not have a waiver to allow parents to pick up the FFVP snacks without children in attendance at non-congregate sites. When will we be able to give out FFVP snacks with our remaining funds?

Answer: As long as the Governor's Stay at Home order remains in place, the FFVP snack program is on hold. When the Stay at Home order is lifted, serving of FFVP snacks may resume until the end of the regularly scheduled school year if the following conditions are met.

1. Snacks are provided at elementary schools currently approved to operate the FFVP program.
2. The FFVP school is participating in the Unanticipated School Closure (USC) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).
3. Eligible elementary school site has FY 2019-2020 grant funds available to cover the cost of FFVP snacks.
4. Children are present when meals are picked up. Note that the FFVP snacks may be provided to any children whose meals are picked up at an elementary school that normally operates the FFVP and is a meal site in the USC SFSP.
5. Eligible FFVP schools that are providing multiple days of meals at one time may also provide multiple servings of FFVP snacks at one time.

6. FFVP snacks can only be served through the end of the regularly scheduled school year. This means that if the regular school year was originally scheduled to end on June 10, then FFVP snacks may not be served after this date.

Question: I am completing the 2021 FFVP application and it is difficult to get the required signatures for the Certification of Support document. What are my options so I can complete and submit my application?

Answer: There are several options during the current COVID -19 situation. MDE is allowing flexibility during this time because we want everyone to stay safe and follow distancing protocol. Here are some suggestions:

1. USDA says we can accept electronic signatures. Is your principal/superintendent/FFVP manager set up with an electronic signature you could use?
2. If staff members have access to a scanner, you could electronically send them the certification document, they could sign, scan and return to you with their actual signature.
3. Another option is to complete all the required information by typing or writing in the person's name and email address where indicated. On the handwritten signature line, type the person's name in cursive script font.

Please contact Linda Stull via email at StullL@michigan.gov with any FFVP questions.

Contact Us

Email: MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov

Nutrition Gateway: The Michigan Department of Education [Nutrition Gateway](#)¹³ provides Child Nutrition Program (CNP) agencies a singular system to access annual CNP applications (MEGSplus), monthly claims (MIND) and periodic administrative reviews (GEMS/MARS) through an integrated dashboard and portal.

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving the School Nutrition News and Updates and SNP Bulletins, visit [School Nutrition News and Updates Subscription](#).¹⁴

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#),¹⁵ (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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1. https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144-194546--,00.html
2. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NBSBR76>
3. https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_34491-523051--,00.html
4. https://buildinghealthycommunities.arewehealthy.com/documents/C7_RFA_FINAL.pdf
5. <https://buildinghealthycommunities.arewehealthy.com/>
6. <https://www.bcbsm.com/index/about-us/why-choose-us/grants-and-contributions/health-program-grants/building-healthy-communities-program.html>
7. <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9scdr>
8. <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/TrainingCalendar>
9. https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Nutrition_Training_Calendar_Access_678629_7.pdf
10. <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/webinars/menu-planning-non-congregate-meals>

11. https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144_94240_94245-508154-,00.html
12. <https://misponsortraining.com/>
13. <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/Login>
14. https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MIMDE_229
15. https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf