



Child Nutrition Programs Bulletin No. 1

May 15, 2020 - Child Nutrition Programs Bulletin No. 1 - USDA Extended Waivers

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Extended Waivers

Overnight, USDA has extended four nationwide waivers for Child Nutrition Programs:

- Waiver #22: Nationwide waiver to allow non-congregate feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs - EXTENSION to August 31, 2020.
 - Program operators may provide non-congregate meals during COVID-19. Allows for meal service using grab-and-go and meal delivery options.
 - Applies to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.
- Waiver #23: Nationwide waiver to allow meal service time flexibility in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program - EXTENSION to August 31, 2020.
 - Along with the approved Michigan Summer Food Service Program meal service time flexibility waiver, all sponsors can provide multiple

meals at one distribution with no time of day restrictions. Sponsors may establish meal service times that support streamlined access to nutritious meals.

- Applies to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.
- Waiver #24: Nationwide waiver to allow meal pattern flexibility in the child nutrition programs - EXTENSION to June 30, 2020.
 - Allows state agencies to approve meal pattern flexibility in the event of supply chain disruptions that are supported by local operator documentation and pre-approval by the state agency.
 - Applies to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.
- Waiver #25: Nationwide waiver to allow parents and guardians to pick up meals for children - EXTENSION to August 31, 2020.
 - Program operators may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to children. Program operators must maintain program accountability and integrity. This waiver also applies to adults picking up meals for adults in the adult portion of the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
 - Applies to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.

Sponsors **do not** need to apply for waivers 22, 23, and 25 through MDE. Participation in these waivers remains a local decision but pre-approval to participate is not required by the State Agency. Waiver 24 requires pre-approval by MDE.

What does this mean for sponsors?

1. The Unanticipated School Closure SFSP meals will end June 30, 2020.
2. Sponsors approved to participate in the traditional Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) will “flip” to SFSP on July 1. All meals served between July 1 through August 31:
 - Can be served at approved SFSP locations. This includes mobile routes and meal distribution/pick up locations.
 - Can be picked up by parents or guardians without children present.

- Can include multiple meals per distribution. Under the SFSP, two meals or one meal plus one snack are allowable per child per day. The only combination **not** allowable is Lunch and Supper. More guidance to come.
 - No meals served prior to an approved SFSP application in place can be reimbursed! Please submit your SFSP application in MEGS+ as soon as possible but no later than May 20, 2020.
3. Area eligibility (allowing meals to be served anywhere in the state) has **NOT** been approved through a nationwide waiver. MDE will be applying for that waiver next week, but unless or until it is approved by USDA, MDE cannot allow local sponsors to serve meals at locations that are under 50% free/reduced or are not eligible with census map data.
 4. Sponsors that experience a documented supply chain issue may request approval from MDE in order to claim meals that do not meet meal pattern requirements. Sponsors must make every effort to provide complete, nutritious meals to children therefore pre-approval is required prior to using the meal pattern waiver.

More information will be covered on the next OHNS Town Hall. Please be sure to join us:

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=bXZEa2x6ZlB3aU1NemJyVUR3dzZTUT09>

Password: 0zNMWR

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference Code: 806533

Contact Us

Email: MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov

Nutrition Gateway: The Michigan Department of Education [Nutrition Gateway](#) ¹ 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](#).²

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- (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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