



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

December 17, 2020

COVID-19 Resources Available for K-12 Schools

CDC just released new tools for administrators for resuming in-person learning.

- The [K-12 Schools COVID-19 Mitigation Toolkit](#) aims to help schools plan for in-person instruction and ongoing operations during COVID-19. The toolkit is designed for public health officials, K-12 administrators, school district officials, and occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals to assess hazards and implement mitigation strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools.
- The [Getting Schools Ready for In-Person Learning: How to Plan and Execute a COVID-19 Mitigation Walkthrough](#) helps conduct a 5-step walkthrough with health officials to review planned COVID-19 mitigation strategies. As COVID-19 fluctuates in communities, schools may open, close, and reopen at varying times throughout the school year. In partnership with local public health officials, school or district administrators can use this step-by-step guide to plan and execute a COVID-19 mitigation walkthrough, ensuring that they are prepared to resume in-person learning at school buildings or campuses.

Additional CDC guidance and tools are available on the [Schools and Child Care Programs webpage](#).

No Kid Hungry New Resource

No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices has developed a new resource that functions as a checklist of options that program operators should consider implementing to reach kids with three meals a day, seven days a week.

The resource is titled, [Explore What's Possible: Considerations for COVID-19 Meal Service](#). Considerations include:

- Serving Three Meals Per Day
- Serving Multiple Days' Worth of Meals at Once
- Serving Weekend & Holiday Meals
- Serving Bulk Foods
- Serving Frozen and Reheatable Meals
- Delivering Meals to Students' Homes
- Partnering with Nonprofits to Help Deliver Meals
- Surveying Families to Improve Operations
- Utilizing All Available Communication Channels

Make sure to download the resource stated above to get full access to all of the options.

Updated Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs

Team Nutrition has just released the updated [Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs](#). This updated resource provides State and local school nutrition professionals a comprehensive guide to the required annual training and hiring standards under the *Final Rule: Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs Personnel*. The updated guide addresses the additional final rule, published March, 1, 2019, that adds four flexibilities to the hiring standards for new school nutrition program directors in small local educational agencies (LEAs) and new State directors of school nutrition programs under the Professional Standards regulations for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). The resource supports school nutrition professionals in ensuring they have the knowledge, training, and tools they need to successfully operate the NSLP and SBP.

The *Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs* provides updated* and user-friendly information on:

- New hiring flexibilities under the Professional Standards requirements*

- Minimum educational criteria for hiring of new directors*
- Job categories
- Training topics organized by key areas
- Where to access training* (including the [Professional Standards Training Database](#))
- Record-keeping requirements for training* (including the [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool](#) (PSTTT))
- Annual training requirements for staff
- LEA enrollment categories

(*Updated information found in the *Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs*.)

The updated guide also introduces training reward badges as a way to motivate and acknowledge staff who complete their annual training. Sticker pages of reward badges will be included with the printed version of the guide. Program operators will be able to order additional sticker pages of reward badges through the Team Nutrition website.

Access the PDF versions today:

- [Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Professional Standards Training Reward Badges packet](#)

Printed copies will be available for ordering, while supplies last, from Team Nutrition at a later date – stay tuned!

New from Team Nutrition: the [Professional Standards web site](#) to access relevant resources all in one place.

Upcoming Events

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87977525907?pwd=Njk1MGlrTXFpciVCT1V2ZnU4aTJlQT09>

Password: vxrHH1

Or Telephone:
Dial: USA 404 443 6397
USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)
Conference code: 806533

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2021

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86120065891?pwd=NnpDU25FTnFOZENxVGdyWWZqRHRwUT09>

Password: 3aXe91

Or Telephone:
Dial: USA 404 443 6397
USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)
Conference code: 806533

Updates, Guidance, and Regulation Information from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services

New Feature Alert for the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs

New features released on December 11, 2020 are now available on the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG). Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your feedback on the FBG and works continuously to enhance the user experience. Team Nutrition has further enhanced the capabilities for registered users by allowing Program operators the ability to create folders for the Recipe Analysis Workbooks (RAW) in the FBG Interactive Web-based tool. This new feature allows users to organize their RAWs using the Web-based Tool and also view them when logged into the FBG Mobile App. Additionally, users can now conveniently access their Favorite foods directly from the homepage with the new Favorite foods button on the FBG Web-based Tool.

See what the [Food Buying Guide](#) for Child Nutrition Programs has to offer you today!

Reminders and Due Dates

2021 MEGS+ CNP: SNP Application

Even if you are following Extended SFSP, you must still complete the 2021 MEGS+ SNP application. It is very important that MDE approves both the 2020 SFSP and the 2021 SNP applications.

Michigan Electronic Grant System Plus (MEGS+) Child Nutrition Programs (CNP): School Nutrition Programs (SNP) 2021 Application is now available.

The MEGS+ website for completing the SNP 2021 Application is at [MEGS+](#).

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](#). 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](#), 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](#)

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](#) to see what is planned.

Questions of the Week

Question: How often should I promote meal distribution at my sites?

Answer: As often as possible and in as many ways as possible! If you are serving meals over break, make sure families know. Use a school district robo call, building principals can share information in their parent newsletters, teachers can post notices in Google Classroom, use social media to post pictures of meals and when they are available, have meal information on the district home webpage.

Question: Are we allowed to provide more than 7 days worth of meals during the holidays?

Answer: Sponsors **cannot** provide more than 7 days of meals as current USDA guidance does not support this.

Question: We typically provide multiple meal distributions on Fridays. Can we hand out 7 days of meals on Friday, December 18 (for December 19 - 25) and then hand out meals again on Wednesday, December 23 (for December 26 - January 1)?

Answer: Yes, because the weekly meal service distribution would land on a major holiday, MDE will allow this one time exception so households can get meals for the second week of break and food service staff will get a break! You cannot provide more than 7 days of meals and you must document accordingly.

Contact Us

Email: MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov

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

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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](#), (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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Links Used in this Document:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/FINAL-0321420_B_K-12_Mitigation_Toolkit508.pdf
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/321420-Walkthrough.pdf>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-staff.html>
<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/explore-whats-possible-considerations-covid-19-meal-service>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/guide-professional-standards-school-nutrition-programs>
<https://professionalstandards.fns.usda.gov/>
<https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov/>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/guide-professional-standards-school-nutrition-programs>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/professional-standards-training-reward-badges>
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9scdr>
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/TrainingCalendar>
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Nutrition_Training_Calendar_Access_678629_7.pdf
https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144_94240_94245-508154--_00.html
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