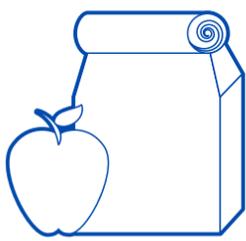


# COVID-19 AND CHILD NUTRITION



## CONTINUE MEAL SERVICE

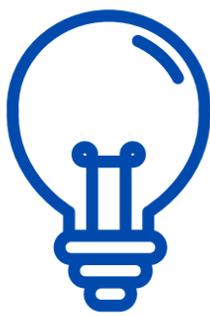
The USDA has authorized School Food Authorities (SFAs) and other eligible community organizations to continue to serve meals to students affected by school or child care closures.

## APPLY FOR THE AREA ELIGIBILITY WAIVER

The USDA recently granted a nationwide waiver that will allow program operators to serve meals in a non-congregate setting, provide flexibility to the meal service time requirement, allow operators to forgo the educational/enrichment activity requirement, and permit caregivers to pick up school meals without the presence of a child. Unfortunately, these waivers do not go far enough. In this time, when we are expecting the virus to spread and more families to lose jobs and teeter on the edge of food insecurity, it is critical that states provide additional meal sites. States must apply for the area eligibility waiver.

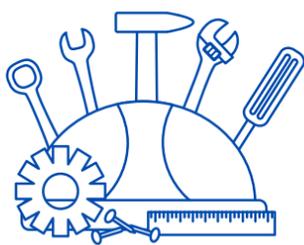


## BEST PRACTICES



- Providing information related to meal sites in multiple languages and formats (e.g. social media, flyers, phone calls)
- Distributing information through multiple channels (e.g. schools, government agencies, local non-profits)
- Maximizing access to meal sites by providing flexible hours
- Offering multiple meals at the same time while practicing social distancing
- Offering "grab and go" meals outside of buildings.
- Providing drive-thru options
- Decentralizing food preparation and distribution and engaging multiple kitchens
- Delivering meals to school bus stops
- Delivering meals directly to students
- Collaborating with local non-profits (e.g., food banks) to provide groceries along with meals

## RESOURCES



- [NEA COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [NEA Education Votes: Child Nutrition](#)
- [FRAC: Ensuring Access to the Child Nutrition Programs in the Event of School Closures](#)
- [FRAC: SNAP Updates](#)
- [USDA: Guidelines on Child Nutrition Program Meal Service During COVID-19 Outbreaks](#)
- [USDA: Guidance on Human Pandemic Response](#)
- [USDA: SFSP and SSO Meal Delivery Using Existing Authority](#)
- [Hunger Free America: 4 Steps States Can Take to Advance "Pandemic EBT"](#)
- [USDA: State Plan for Pandemic EBT](#)
- [USDA: Request to Provide Emergency Allotments \(Supplements\) to SNAP Households](#)

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

During this frightening time, students in need of meals may also need other services such as health care, mental health services, and social services. Be sure to virtually convene your specialized instructional support personnel, such as Social Workers and Counselors, as well as local service providers to discuss addressing the entire range of student needs while schools are closed.

