



## Summer Food Service Program



**Child Nutrition Programs**  
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## Program Bulletin

**To:** SFSP Sponsors  
Program Reviewers

**Date:** August 4, 2020

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**FNS SFSP Policy Memos:** *Program changes as a result of USDA Policy Memos are to be implemented immediately. Please file this bulletin for reference, guidance, and compliance with the Summer Food Service Program. Feel free to call the Child Nutrition Programs office if you need further clarification.*

**Food and Nutrition Response (FNS) to COVID-19** – The FNS Response to COVID-19 webpage (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>) includes disaster assistance for child nutrition programs. It has meal planning resources, policy memos, waiver information and extensions, and summaries of actions taken to ease program operations and protect the health of participants.

**Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility (EXTENSION 5) – COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response #38 (attached)** – Response #38 extends the requirement to meet meal pattern requirements during the public health emergency. The extension is through August 31, 2020. The State Agency strongly encourages program operators to maintain and meet the nutrition standards to the greatest extent possible. [COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response #36](#) issued June 25, 2020 extended this waiver to July 31, 2020.

**Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for Sponsoring Organizations in the Summer Food Service Program (Extension 2) – COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response #42**

**(attached)** – Response #42 extends the Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for Sponsoring Organizations in the Summer Food Service Program – Extension granted on June 8, 2020 that expires on August 31, 2020. This waiver applies to State agencies administering and local organizations operating the Summer Food Service Program. This waiver remains in effect through September 30, 2021.

### **Attention! To All Sponsors with September Operating Dates!**

Note that many of the COVID-19 waivers **expire August 31, 2020**. These include the non-congregate waiver, parent/guardian pick-up waiver, and meal pattern waiver. USDA is working to provide flexibilities to allow for continued SFSP meal services during any “gaps” due to delayed school start dates as a result of COVID-19. The state understands the challenges sponsors face should the waivers expire prior to the end of their SFSP meal services. Sponsors will be notified as soon as possible of any additional waiver extensions.

Please review your operations and ensure that you have a plan in place to share with site staff and promptly execute in the event the waivers are NOT extended.

Thank you for your dedication to serving food to children during these challenging times. You are all appreciated very much.

### **Waivers Available for the ‘Regular’ 2020 SFSP**

Below is a list of special SFSP meal service conditions and the applicable waives, and a list of waivers that are available to sponsors during the ‘regular’ SFSP 2020 season as a result of the Novel Coronavirus. Please contact the State Agency with any questions, or if you would like a waiver sent to you.

#### **SFSP MEAL SERVICE CONDITIONS**

- **NEW (as of 8/3/20)!** Site is not area eligible because less than 50% of children are eligible for free or reduced-priced school meals – Sponsors can now apply for a **50 Percent Area Eligibility waiver** to provide SFSP meals in unserved areas where less than 50% of children are eligible for free or reduced priced school meals.
- ‘Grab and go’ meals and meals consumed offsite – Sponsors must have an approved **non-congregate waiver** if they have sites that are serving ‘grab and go’ meals and for any meals that are consumed offsite.
- Meal delivery – Sponsors must have an approved **non-congregate meal waiver with delivery option checked**. Note that **parents must opt-in** and sponsors must describe the process in place that will ensure meals are delivered only to households where parents have opted in for meal delivery.
- Distribution of multiple meals during a single meal service – If sites are serving more than one meal at a time and multiple days’ worth during a single meal service then sponsors must have an approved **non-congregate waiver** **and** an approved **meal service time waiver**.
- Parent/Guardian Meal Pick Up – If a parent or guardian is picking up meals and taking them home to their children then the sponsor must have an approved **non-congregate waiver** **and** an approved **parent/guardian pick-up waiver**. Sponsors will need to describe

the process in place that ensures that meals are distributed only to parents or guardians of eligible children, and that duplicate meals are not distributed to any child.

- Difficulties meeting SFSP meal pattern – For sponsors that are having difficulties meeting the SFSP meal pattern requirements as a result of food shortages or delivery issues as a result of COVID-19, sponsors may elect to apply for a **meal pattern waiver**. **Sponsors must identify the food component(s)** they are not able to meet and provide a justification why the meal pattern cannot be met.

## WAIVERS

- **NEW as of 8/3/20: 50 Percent Area Eligibility Waiver (attached)** – sponsors may apply for this waiver if they are interested in providing SFSP meals in unserved areas where less than 50% of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Note that in order to be considered for this waiver, **sponsors will be required to describe the meal distribution method and explain how they will target benefits to children in need**, for example, children who may be newly eligible for benefits due to the economic impacts of COVID-19 (without overtly identifying them as eligible for free or reduced-price meals). This waiver is effective through August 31, 2020.
- **Non-Congregate Wavier** (with delivery option) – sponsors must have this waiver if they have any sites that are serving ‘grab-and-go’ meals, if children are taking meals off-site, if any site is delivering meals, and if any site is distributing multiple meals during a single meals service. Delivery Option: If utilizing the delivery option, **parents must opt-in** and sponsors must describe the process in place that will ensure meals are delivered only to households where parents have opted in for meal delivery. The non-congregate waiver remains in effect through August 31, 2020 ([COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response #22](#)).
- **Sponsor Onsite Monitoring Waiver** – This waiver waives the requirement that the pre-operational, 1<sup>st</sup> week and 4<sup>th</sup> week monitoring site visit must be conducted onsite and allows for the monitoring site visits to take place remotely. **Please note that this waiver does not waive the monitoring requirement**. It only allows for the site visits to be done remotely as opposed to onsite. This waiver remains in effect through August 31, 2020. ([COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response #30](#))
- **Parent/Guardian Meal Pick Up Waiver** – For sponsors who are serving non-congregate meals and operating under an approved non-congregate waiver, they may apply for this waiver that allows for a parent or guardian to pick up and take meals home to their children. **Sponsors will need to describe the process in place** that ensures that meals are distributed only to parents or guardians of eligible children, and that duplicate meals are not distributed to any child. This waiver remains in effect through August 31, 2020. ([COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response #25](#))
- **Meal Service Time Waiver** – Available to sponsors that have any sites that are distributing multiple meals during a single meal service, or that are serving meals that exceed the meal time limits ([7 CFR 225.16\(c\)\(1\)](#)). This waiver remains in effect through the 2020 SFSP year.
- **Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver** – If sponsors are having difficulties meeting the SFSP meal pattern requirements as a result of food shortages or delivery issues as a result of COVID-19, sponsors may elect to apply for a meal pattern waiver. **Sponsors must identify the food component(s)** they are not able to meet and provide a justification why the meal pattern cannot be met. This waiver remains in effect until August 31, 2020. (COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response #38 (attached))

## **Alaska Smart Start Summer Virtual Summit**

To continue the creative discourse and scenario planning achieved through the Alaska Smart Start 2020 webinar series held this spring, DEED, with the support of the Region 16 Comprehensive Center, is launching the [Alaska Smart Start Summer Virtual Summit 2020](#) to be held throughout the month of August.

The Virtual Summit invites teachers, parents, students, district staff, tribal leaders, community members, and education stakeholders to interact daily with expert guest speakers, network with a statewide community of learners, and collectively plan for the conditions, continuity, and capacities for learning in the upcoming school year through the recently revised [Alaska Smart Start 2020: Restart & Reentry Framework Guidance for K-12 Schools](#).

The professional development event will start August 4th, 2020, and run through August 27th, 2020, with a bonus pre-session on August 3rd. The Virtual Summit is intended to create a variety of spaces for people to connect, enhancing the collective wisdom for K-12 education in Alaska. Participants can register at any point during the Summit. Participation is flexible, so participants can choose to attend all sessions, or pick and choose sessions they find applicable or interesting to them. Once registered participants will have access to all the sessions.

- Mondays offer sessions developing communities around various topics, collaborating in size-alike districts;
- Tuesdays present specific topics within Capacities and Conditions for Learning;
- Wednesdays provide opportunities for Virtual Consultations; and,
- Thursdays focus on the Continuity of Learning.

To learn more and register visit [Smart Start Webinar link](#).

## **State of Alaska – Health Mandates - <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates/>**

The State of Alaska has issued multiple health mandates as a result of the Novel Coronavirus. Health Mandates 001 through 009, 011, 012, 013 and 016 have expired, or rescinded and are no longer valid (as of 6/22/20). Please visit the website for the most recent State of Alaska Health Mandates and travel advisories.

## **Child Nutrition Resources**

**TEAM NUTRITION** –On June 11, 2020, Team Nutrition held a webinar to demonstrate the latest enhancements to the Exhibit A Grains Tool. The Exhibit A Grains Tool is an essential aid for SFSP sponsor monitors and site supervisors. This tool determines grains utilized in your summer meals and how they meet the meal pattern requirements.

The Exhibit A Grains Tool allows you to search for your grain product as listed on Exhibit A and enter in the serving size from the product label. The tool helps you determine: 1) ounce equivalent (oz eq) grains or grains/bread serving(s) for the grain product, 2) amount to serve to provide your desired grains contribution, and (3) with the new update, the amount to serve for a grain product in order to meet the minimum

grains requirement by age/grade groups for specific child nutrition programs.

This webinar provides a demonstration and in-depth practice for using the grains tool on the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG) Interactive Web-Based Tool. Participants will also experience the Exhibit A Grains Tool on the Mobile App, which allows program operators to determine the grains contribution and the amount to serve on-the-go.

The recording of the webinar is available [at https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/howmaximize-exhibit-grains-tool](https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/howmaximize-exhibit-grains-tool).

#### **Additional Team Nutrition COVID-19 publications include:**

- Feeding Kids When Schools Are Closed: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/feeding-kids-when-schools-are-closed>
- Child Nutrition Program Meal Service During COVID-19: Best Practices for Parent Pick-Up of Meals and Snacks: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/child-nutrition-program-meal-service-during-covid-19>
- Handwashing and Cleaning Resources: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/handwashing-and-cleaning-resources>. Includes photographs and illustrations, Program Operation resources, signs and mini-posters, and activity sheets for kids.

#### **Other COVID-19 Resources for Program Operators**

Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)- <https://frac.org/>

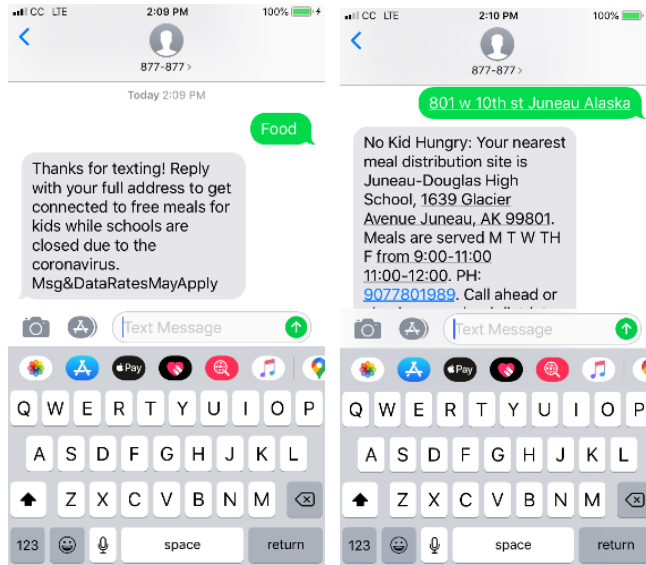
No Kid Hungry (NKH) - <https://www.nokidhungry.org/what-we-do/summer-meals>

Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) - <https://theicn.org/prevent>

### **Summer Meals Site Finders**

There are a few handy summer meal site finder resources out there. They are listed below. Share these resources with your community!

- Meals for Kids: USDA Meals for Kids Site Finder: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids>  
This is an interactive map to find directions to nearby summer food sites as well as hours of operations and contact information. Simply enter an address or place and let the website do the rest!
- No Kid Hungry / Share Our Strength texting service: to locate a summer food service program meal site near you, text “food” to 877-877. You will receive a text back asking for an address and as soon as you send that you will receive another reply that lists all of the SFSP sites near you! Screen prints are below of what the texting procedure looks like, and here is a link to the No Kid Hungry summer meals webpage which has lots of information and additional resources: <https://www.nokidhungry.org/what-we-do/summer-lunch-program>



- [Summer Food Rocks website: www.summerfoodrocks.org](http://www.summerfoodrocks.org): This website will display SFSP meal sites near the address you enter in the 2020 Summer Meals Site Finder location box. Below is a snapshot of what the website looks like showing indicators of the SFSP meal sites close to the address that was entered in the location box:

2020 Summer Meals Site Finder

Map
Satellite

Free and open to all children (18 & under)  
 USDA approved sites  
 These institutions are equal opportunity providers:

**801 W 10th St, Juneau, AK 99801, USA has 4 sites nearby.**

#1 - 0.2 miles away  
**Harborview Elementary**  
 Juneau Borough School District  
[1255 Glacier Avenue Juneau, AK 99801](#)  
 March 17 - May 22, 2020  
 Serving on: M,T,W,TH,F  
 Breakfast: 9:00-11:00 --- Lunch: 11:00-12:00  
 Snack: y --- Dinner:

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**Commonly Used Acronyms**

**SFSP** – Summer Food Service Program

**CNP** – Child Nutrition Programs

**DEED** – Department of Education and Early  
Development

**WRO** – Western Region Office

**FNS** – Food and Nutrition Services

**FNSRO**-Food and Nutrition Services Regional  
Office

**USDA** – U.S. Department of Agriculture

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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: [USDA Complaint Email](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov) (program.intake@usda.gov).

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