Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning
BRIGHT FROM THE START

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DECAL: Nutrition Services Division

FAQs: Serving meals to children during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

The purpose of this communication is to provide guidance on serving meals to children and/or adults during the public health emergency.

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

Do sponsoring organizations have to adhere to the monitoring requirements outlined in policy memo, *Monitoring Requirements* dated March 18, 2005, during the public health emergency?
Yes. The Child Nutrition Response #27 *Nationwide Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the Child and Adult Care Food Program* issued on June 8, 2020 expired on August 31, 2020. Therefore, if sponsors want to continue using this waiver for FY 2021, sponsors must complete an official waiver request. Official waiver requests submitted to DECAL will be forwarded to USDA for review and approval. Sponsors interested in submitting a waiver should carefully review the instructions in DECAL Policy Memorandum, *Child Nutrition Program Waiver Request Guidance and Protocol (Revised)*, July 13, 2018 and respond to items #4, #5, #6 and #8 in a Word document. NOTE: Sponsors are also required to issue a notice informing the public that a waiver request has been submitted to DECAL. Submit the official waiver request and a copy of the public notice to Leslie.Truman@decal.ga.gov.

What is acceptable sign-in and sign-out documentation during COVID-19?

1. If the facility (center/home) has a computer or keypad system inside, facility staff may sign children in and out of care when no other option is available.
2. If the facility can set up a tablet outside, families may sign children in and out of care electronically. The tablet must be disinfected after each use.
3. If the facility uses a paper sign-in system outside, families may sign children in and out of care. The writing utensils must be sanitized after each use.

May school-age children who are attending school virtually and who are also enrolled and attending child care during the day receive meals through both CACFP and school meals programs?
Yes. Students enrolled in both school and child care may receive meals through multiple Child Nutrition Programs. However, the State agency plan must be followed to ensure that program accountability is maintained and that program meal limits are not exceeded for the School Breakfast Program (SBP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and CACFP.

Can CACFP facilities provide non-congregate meals during this public health emergency?
Yes. As of March 20, 2020, the USDA approved a nationwide waiver to allow non-congregate feeding in CACFP. The USDA recognizes that waiving the congregate meal requirement is vital to ensure

appropriate safety measures for the purpose of providing meals and meal supplements. This waiver has been extended until June 30, 2021. Click here to access the waiver.

Is there a start date for the recently approved CACFP waivers for non-congregate feeding, activity requirements for at-risk afterschool, and the mealtimes waiver?
These waivers are effective immediately. Reference the table/chart at the end of this FAQ document under *Additional Resources for Nutrition Programs* for the duration of the waivers. These waivers are also posted on the DECAL website at:
http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/CACFPNationwideWaiversDuetoCOVID-19_03232020.pdf.

Why is CACFP not included in the Food Service Management Company (FSMC) contract nationwide waiver?
On April 24, FNS issued the Nationwide Waiver of Food Service Management Contract Duration in the National School Lunch Program and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) waiving, for all state agencies, school food authorities (SFAs), and SFSP sponsors the FSMC contract duration requirements at 7 CFR 210.16(d) and 225.6(h)(7). FSMC contracts that may expire by or around June 30, 2020, may be extended through school year 2020-2021 (June 30, 2021). To ensure program integrity during this time, extended FSMC contracts are limited to one-year only.

Additionally, child nutrition operators may, pursuant to 2 CFR 200.320(f)(2), use emergency non-competitive procurement to negotiate a new contract for school year 2020-2021. To ensure program integrity moving forward, contracts resulting from non-competitive proposals may not exercise renewal options.

CACFP was not included in this nationwide waiver because CACFP regulations do not have similar restrictions on the duration of FSMC contracts. Although flexibilities provided at 2 CFR 200.320(f)(2) (noted above) apply to all child nutrition programs, including CACFP.

Are there any mealtime restrictions specific to CACFP during the public health emergency?
As of March 20, the USDA approved a nationwide waiver to allow flexibility in meal service time requirements to support streamlined access to nutritious meals. Sponsors that would like to utilize this waiver must request approval with Leslie Truman at Leslie.Truman@decal.ga.gov. Click here for more information on this waiver.

Will CACFP training sessions still be offered during this time?
Yes. Nutrition Services is currently offering all CACFP Orientation and Program Training sessions virtually. Please contact Nutrition Services at 404-657-1779 to register for one (1) of the available virtual training sessions.

Do traditional CACFP program operators (institutions, sponsoring organizations, and centers) need to maintain daily attendance records?
Through authority granted under the COVID–19 Child Nutrition Response Act (the Act) (H.R. 6201, Title II), FNS waived the requirements to serve CACFP meals in a congregate setting in COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #2, Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs, dated March 20, 2020.

For states that elect to use the non-congregate waiver authority, CACFP program operators only need to maintain daily attendance records for eligible children attending the center. For those not in daily attendance, state agencies must have a plan for ensuring that program operators can maintain accountability and program integrity. This includes implementing processes to ensure that meals are distributed only to parents or guardians of eligible children and that they do not distribute duplicate meals. This could be done by checking off participants picking up meals against enrollment records, using sign-in sheets, or other methods which result in accurate recording of eligible program participants, or their parents, receiving meals. CACFP program operators are still required to maintain daily meal counts and enrollment records under this authority.

Can CACFP sites that remain open implement the non-congregate and meal time nationwide waivers?
The nationwide waivers to allow meal service time flexibilities and non-congregate feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs during the coronavirus pandemic do not require that a CACFP site be closed. Under these waivers, day care homes and centers that are still open can provide meal service on site to participants in attendance. They can also arrange meal service pick-ups and/or provide meal delivery for participants temporarily not in attendance. If the CACFP operator determines there is a need and it is logistically feasible to implement these options, it can do so for all or part of its participants. Please note that as indicated in SP 14-2020, Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #3 (https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/covid-19/meal-service-during-novel-coronavirus-outbreaks-qas), CACFP operators may provide meal delivery only to enrolled children and adult participants, due to confidentiality and logistical requirements.

Can Head Start programs deliver meals to children enrolled in the home-based program option?
Head Start programs may only distribute meals to children who were already receiving meals through CACFP or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Under the non-congregate waiver, these meals can be provided through a State approved meal distribution method. Head Start children who do not normally receive meals under CACFP or NSLP, such as children in the Head Start/Early Head Start home-based program option, can utilize open SFSP or NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sites in their community to get meals. The USDA Meals for Kids Site Finder at https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids can help Head Start families locate open meal sites.

Can CACFP State agencies and sponsoring organizations add new centers and facilities during the COVID-19 emergency?
Yes, State agencies and sponsoring organizations can add new centers and day care homes that are providing care during the coronavirus pandemic. However, State agencies and sponsoring organizations must complete all aspects of the application and approval process. It is up to each State agency or sponsor to determine if they have the capacity to add centers and facilities based on their systems and other resources, such as the availability of inspections and licensing.

Are State agencies and sponsoring organizations required to conduct pre-approval reviews for new CACFP centers and day care homes during the coronavirus pandemic?
Yes, to ensure program integrity during the emergency response, State agencies and sponsoring organizations are still required to conduct pre-approval reviews for new institutions and facilities. However, through authority established by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), FNS granted nationwide waivers of onsite monitoring requirements for State agencies and onsite

monitoring of new facilities for sponsoring organizations. State agencies and sponsoring organizations that elect to use these waivers may conduct pre-approval reviews off-site through a desk audit.

Can CACFP Institutions deliver meals?
Yes. If the CACFP operator determines there is a need and it is logistically feasible to deliver meals directly to homes, it may do so with State agency approval and adherence to all Federal confidentiality requirements. If applicable, any State agency meal service times would also have to be waived, per the Meal Service Time nationwide waiver. To request approval, CACFP operators can indicate that they intend to deliver meals on the combined waiver form and forward the document to tammie.baldwin@decal.ga.gov .Delivery could be completed by mail or delivery service, or hand-delivered by CACFP staff, volunteers, community organizations, or others. This option is only available to CACFP operators that provide care for enrolled children.

What funding is available for meal delivery?
There is no additional reimbursement for home delivery or mobile meals delivery, but related expenses, such as postage or delivery service fees, would be considered an allowable cost under the CACFP. Delivery costs could also be paid with non-program funds such as State or local funds, or private donations.

What are the requirements for initiating home meal delivery for a household?
CACFP operators must first obtain written consent from households of enrolled children (this could include email or other electronic means) that the household wants to receive delivered meals. In addition, CACFP operators should confirm the household's current contact information to ensure meals are delivered to the correct location.

It is critical that CACFP operators protect the confidentiality of children and their households throughout this process. The National School Lunch Act and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) do not authorize release of household contact information for children without first obtaining the written consent of the child's parent or guardian. The CACFP operator must make the first contact about meal delivery with the households of enrolled children, and adult participants, and must notify them if contact information will be shared with an external organization, for example, a local non-profit that will provide meal delivery. Once the CACFP operator receives written consent from the parent or guardian to release contact information, the information may be shared with other organizations involved with meal delivery.

Do home-delivered meals need to be shelf stable?
No. The type of meal offered will depend on the resources and capacity of the Program operator. Those that can prepare ready-to-eat meals and have the capacity to deliver meals daily in a way that meets State or local food safety requirements may do so.

Does the child or adult participant need to be present for home meal delivery?
No. If the CACFP operator has obtained the household's written consent to deliver meals and has verified the current address, the child or adult participant does not need to be present at the time of delivery. If the meals are shelf stable, no one need be present, if the address has been verified. Please consider State and local food safety requirements and best practices.

Can a child care center that operates CACFP and is closed due to COVID-19 provide non-congregate meals to enrolled children?
The waiver provides CACFP institutions and facilities the ability to provide meals through a variety of methods, including pick-up schedules with designated times for distribution, as long as these are previously approved by the State agency. The maximum number of meals that may be offered to each child remains the same as under regular CACFP operations. The State agency may approve a distribution or pick up approach that includes meals for multiple days, up to one week at a time.

Because non-food items are allowable items through CACFP, are we able to provide such items to the families that may need them in addition to food items?
CACFP requires that operational costs are limited to the institution's allowable expenses of serving meals to eligible participants in eligible child and adult care centers, except as provided in §226.18(a), sponsors of day care homes do not have allowable operating expenses. Non-food supplies are an allowable operational cost, including those required for the preparation and service of meals (e.g., plates, plastic forks, napkins, etc.) These items should be provided directly to program participants with the meals. Institutions should provide the number of non-food items needed for the number of meals provided.

Institutions must document the costs of these items with receipts and invoices.

Is the meal pattern waiver a sponsorship waiver to be administered case by case, or is it an approval for specific center or homes? What is required to be submitted for approval?
It is both. If you are having a problem meeting the meal pattern requirements at all of your sites, please complete part 1 of the meal pattern waiver If you are having a problem meeting the requirements at individual sites, you only need to complete part 2 of the form. The waiver start date, meal component and a written justification is required for approval.

My center shut down temporarily. Do I need to complete paperwork until we reopen?
If your center is closed, it is expected that you report that information to Licensing and email Leslie Truman so Nutrition Services will have a record of it. If you are not serving meals, there are no CACFP records you would be expected to maintain for the time period in which the facility was closed.

We currently have an agreement with the school system to provide our food; however, since the schools are closed, the school system no longer has capacity to provide our meals. We currently serve supper. Is it possible that we could switch to a healthy snack?
Yes, you can switch from supper to a snack. Please make sure you update your application to reflect the meal you are serving so when you file your claim, the application in ATLAS matches your current operation.

We want to maximize our impact and serve more children or adults that need healthy meals. How can we serve more meals in our center or our community?
There is a combination of things you can do including media releases and utilizing social media to announce that you are serving meals in your community. You can also utilize some of the flexibilities including distributing multiple meals at once, allowing parents/guardians to pick up meals, and serving meals in non-congregate settings. Additionally, you can deliver meals for both children and adult participants with state agency approval.

When providing meals for the children, can we provide them with both lunch and breakfast items and account for those on the Meal Count Sheet as a breakfast and lunch item, or are we only focused on

lunches at this time?
Yes, you can serve both lunch and breakfast. You will want to keep track of those meals separately, because they have different reimbursement rates and meal pattern requirements. We also encourage you to serve other meal types—other than lunch – currently.

When providing meals for families, how are we determining the income eligibility statement (IES) for the students receiving meals who are not directly associated with our school?
To claim a meal in CACFP, you must provide proof of enrollment for that child at your center. If you don't have an IES for a child, you will need a different method of enrollment, but you can still claim the meal. However, the reimbursement rate is based on whether the child qualifies for free or reduced-price meals. If you have a separate form of enrollment but don't have an IES for that child, you will be reimbursed at the paid rate which is at a lower rate than the free and reduced rate.

Are we able to provide meals several days at a time?
Yes. If you are claiming the meals, you want to make sure that the meals meet the required meal components and the quantities are being met.

Will we be able to use CACFP funds if we must close?
CACFP organizations may only use CACFP funds to operate their meal service program. Funds are only to be used on allowable CACFP costs while the meal service is in operation. The organization must have a process in place to utilize its non-CACFP funding sources in the event of a temporary or unexpected closure.

Will there be any changes to the processing of new CACFP applications?
There are no changes the CACFP application process currently. Interested organizations may contact Leslie Truman at Leslie.Truman@decal.ga.gov and my also visit the DECAL web site at: http://decal.ga.gov/CACFP/Applicant.aspx.

Center A is a non-CACFP site and is closing temporarily due to low numbers. The children from Center A are going to Center B, which is a CACFP site. This is a temporary center that is under review until we get through this health crisis.

- **Do the children in Center A (non-CACAP site and is closing) need to enroll at Center B and do they need to fill out income eligibility forms?** If this is a traditional CACFP site, not at-risk afterschool, then the answer is yes. Those children from Center A would have to enroll in Center B and they must be present for the meal. Proof of enrollment for the children coming from Center A to B would be required. If the facility is using income eligibility forms as proof as enrollment, they would be required. If the center is using another type of document as an enrollment form, then an income eligibility statement would not be required. However, all meals served to those children that don't have an income eligibility statement would be reimbursed at the paid rate, which is a lower rate.
- **If the combined enrollment disqualifies center B, can the two centers "live" together but document meals separately for center B to continue to claim for their children?** No, two sites cannot operate at the same location. Please contact your application specialist for additional guidance.

How can I serve children in community who are school aged and are NOT enrolled in my center? If so, do I obtain an Income Form?

As a CACFP provider/institution, you can serve school age children during school closures, but you will need proof of enrollment for that child in order to claim them. Income eligibility forms are available on our website under CACFP forms.

Should CACFP facilities that use pricing programs still charge families a meal fee if the facility is closed? What if a child is absent?
Meal fees for children enrolled in a CACFP participating facility should not be charged if the facility is closed due to the coronavirus outbreak. However, if the facility is open but the individual child is absent, the facility's existing meal policies should be followed.
For additional information, contact Sonja.Adams@decal.ga.gov

If a statewide mandate was issued requiring child care centers and homes to close, would the USDA provide financial relief or advancement to relieve the impact to sponsors?
At this time, DECAL is not aware of any plans for USDA to provide funding during times in which child care centers or homes are closed and not serving meals to children. If we receive additional information from USDA, we will provide this information to all institutions.

AT-RISK AFTERSCHOOL

During the public health emergency, are centers and/or sites participating in the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component required to be located in the attendance area of a school in which at least 50% of the enrolled children are certified eligible for free or reduced-price school meals?
No, the newly released Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program At-Risk Afterschool Care Component, allows schools and afterschool care centers/sites, regardless of their geographical location, to serve at-risk afterschool meals and snacks to students after the regular school day through December 31, 2020. Institutions and sponsors that would like to implement this waiver, please notify your assigned Application Specialist. Please reference the table below to determine your assigned Application Specialist.

Application Specialist (AP)	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Paula Lawrence	0 (zero)—G	Paula.Lawrence@decal.ga.gov	(404) 463-2111
Shericka Blount	H—P	Shericka.Blount@decal.ga.gov	(404) 656-6411
Brandi Banks	Q—Z	Brandi.Banks@decal.ga.gov	(470) 725-6543

During COVID-19, how may we offer the enrichment activity if we are operating in a non-congregate setting for social distancing and safety?
All At-Risk afterschool care providers, including those approved for non-congregate meals, still must meet the requirement to provide an education or enrichment activity [7 CFR 226.17a(b)(1)]. However, with approved non-congregate and parent pick-up waivers, these activities may be conducted virtually or in other non-congregate ways.

Program operators may utilize alternative methods to meet this requirement including but not limited to online homework assistance, activity packets, electronic games and books or other e-

learning activities for the children to partake in at home. For example, Team Nutrition offers a variety of online games, books and nutrition education activities for children at https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/digital-nutrition-resources-kids. Although children are not required to participate in or complete the activity to receive an afterschool meal or snack, the afterschool care provider must offer the activity.

Are educational or enrichment activities required for the At-Risk Afterschool Meal programs during the public health emergency?
Yes. The USDA nationwide waiver for offering enrichment or educational activities ended on June 30, 2020. Therefore, when the FY 2020-2021 school year begins, At-Risk Afterschool Meal programs must offer a program that includes regularly scheduled and planned educational and/or enrichment activities in a structured and supervised setting.

Can my At Risk After School sites continue to serve meals now that the school year has ended?
CACFP At-Risk Afterschool care centers may choose to end At-Risk operations at the end of the planned school year or continue to operate under the unanticipated school closure waiver until June 30. Once the State or school district transitions to traditional SFSP, At-Risk operations will cease. Therefore, after the end of the planned school year or June 30th, At-Risk programs can no longer claim meals through the At-Risk Afterschool program but may choose to operate as SFSP sponsors or sites if eligible and approved by the State agency.

Do CACFP at-risk afterschool centers need to maintain daily attendance records?
Through authority granted under the COVID–19 Child Nutrition Response Act (the Act) (H.R. 6201, Title II), FNS waived the requirements to serve CACFP meals in a congregate setting in COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #2, Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs. FNS waived the requirements which require at-risk afterschool care centers to serve afterschool meals and snacks in a structured and supervised environment, with an educational or enrichment activity in COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #3, Nationwide Waiver of the Activity Requirement in Afterschool Care Child Nutrition Programs, both dated March 20, 2020.

In states that elect to use these waivers, CACFP at-risk afterschool centers only need to maintain daily attendance records for eligible children attending the center, per 7 CFR 226.17a(o)(1) (at-risk afterschool centers may maintain sign-in sheets or, with state agency approval, other methods which result in accurate recording of daily attendance). At-risk programs that do not have children attending do not need to maintain daily attendance records. However, state agencies must have a plan for ensuring that program operators can maintain accountability and program integrity. This includes implementing processes to ensure that meals are provided for eligible children, and that they do not distribute duplicate meals. At-risk afterschool centers are still required to maintain daily meal counts under this authority.

How can I apply to serve At Risk meals when the new school year begins?
When the new school year begins, Sponsors can transition to The **At-Risk Afterschool Meals** component of the CACFP. Through the Afterschool Meals program, healthy meals and snacks can be served to children and teenagers who participate in afterschool programs in low income areas. CACFP is available to afterschool programs only during the school year when classes are in session.

Sponsors must hold a child care license or request an exemption from Child Care Services (CCS) before they can register for training. Here's a link for more information about the exemption: http://decal.ga.gov/CCS/Exemptions.aspx. Sponsors may contact Leslie Truman at Leslie.Truman@decal.ga.gov or at 404.657.1779 to register for training.

Can I claim reimbursement for meals served to children who did not typically attend my At-Risk afterschool program (e.g., siblings of enrolled children whose schools are closed due to coronavirus concerns)?
Yes, if the child is eligible to receive meals and all required records are maintained which include but are not limited to meal count records, attendance records, and menus. See CACFP Policy 18 at http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/CACFPPolicy18.pdf for recordkeeping requirements. Additionally, institutions should ensure the ATLAS application reflects current operations including the current average daily attendance and the types of meals served.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Can SFSP Sponsors claim meals prior to their approval?
Yes. On September 11, 2020, FNS issued a nationwide waiver to allow state agencies to reimburse Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors for meals served prior to the sponsor receiving notification that the sponsor or site was approved for participation in the program. Click here to access the notification. Sponsors who would like to utilize this waiver must update their FY 2020 SFSP site application(s) in GA ATLAS to reflect changes (e.g., new operating dates, meal times). Once changes are made, Sponsors must complete Attachment Q- Sponsor Update Form, and send the completed form to their assigned Business Operations Specialist. Click here to access Attachment Q- Sponsor Update Form. **Note:** Sponsors are only eligible for reimbursement for meals actually served. Supporting documentation for all meals served must be maintained on file.

When distributing multiple meals for the entire week, can we distribute a half-gallon or a larger container of milk instead of multiple 8-fluid ounces (fl. oz.) cartons of milk?
Please reference the Summer Food Service Program: Providing Multiple Meals at a Time During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic resource document located on our website under the COVID-19 Resources section. The document states that, "*Under State-approved non-congregate feeding and meal times waivers, Program operators may provide bulk food items that contribute to multiple meals for children. Program operators can provide menus and instructions with the foods to communicate to children and their parents or guardians how to portion and serve foods at mealtime. For example, the Program operator could provide a half-gallon of milk, instead of multiple 8-fluid ounces (fl. oz.) cartons of milk, along with a menu showing that an 8 fl. oz. (1 cup) serving of milk is part of each breakfast and lunch meal.*" Therefore, providing milk in larger containers would be acceptable if approved for a non-congregate and meal time waiver. Documentation must be maintained that shows the total amount of milk needed for the number of meals served was purchased and available.

On the last day before expiration of the waiver to allow non-congregate feeding, can an SFSP sponsor serve multiple meals that would extend beyond the expiration of the waiver? For example, on December 31, 2020 can the sponsor deliver meals that are intended to be consumed on January 1-4?
The state agency would not be able to approve a distribution approach that includes a sponsor claiming non-congregate meals intended for consumption after December 31, 2020 or after the duration of

summer operations, whichever is earlier, the date that *COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #22 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION* expires.

Can closed enrolled sites use area eligibility instead of collecting income eligibility statements?
Yes, the closed-enrolled eligibility waiver allows sponsors to use area eligibility instead of collecting income eligibility statements. This waiver is in effect until December 31, 2020. However, camps are not closed enrolled sites. They cannot use area eligibility in lieu of collecting income eligibility statements. Camps are required to collect income eligibility statements, and meals are reimbursed only for children who qualify for free and reduced priced meals.

Does the First Week Site Visit Waiver allow sponsors to forego the full review of site operations at each site within the first four weeks of operations?
SFSP sponsors are required to visit their sites within the first week of operation and complete a full review of the first four weeks of operation. With waiver approval, SFSP sponsors are not required to visit sites within the first week of operation if the site operated successfully in the previous year and if sponsors successfully participate in the CACFP or the NSLP. The four-week review is still required but sponsors do have the flexibility to conduct the review via desk audit.
Waiver in effect until December 31, 2020

Can SFSP sponsors continue serving children after September 30, 2020 during the public health emergency? If so, what are the requirements?
SFSP sponsors currently approved to serve meals under traditional SFSP are permitted to extend their operations until December 31, 2020. Sponsors who wish to continue serving meals through December 31, 2020 must complete the requirements listed in the *Instructions for Extending SFSP Operations through December 31, 2020*. The instructions can be found here. Also reference the newly released USDA *Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations through December 31, 2020*.

Which Child Nutrition Programs may school food authorities (SFAs) and sponsors operate during the waiver period?
SFAs may operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP), the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and/or the Summer Food Service Program. SFSP sponsors who are not SFAs may operate the SFSP. All sponsors may also operate the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component of the CACFP concurrently with the SFSP.

Can the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component of the CACFP operate simultaneously with the SFSP/SSO?
Yes. The At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component of the CACFP, which operates during the regular school year, may operate simultaneously with the SFSP/SSO. However, the maximum number of meal(s) and/or snack(s) allowed for each Child Nutrition Program (e.g., SFSP; CACFP; SSO; NSLP) cannot exceed two (2) meals and one (1) snack or one (1) meal and two (2) snacks per child, per day. Sponsors who wish to continue serving meals through December 31, 2020 must complete the requirements listed in the *Instructions for Extending SFSP Operations through December 31, 2020*. The instructions can be found here. Also reference the newly released USDA *Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations through December 2020*.

May SFSP sponsors amend their applications to reflect continuation of operations through December 31, 2020? Or should they submit a new application to determine which sites can operate SFSP?
The state agency has discretion regarding the process used to extend SFSP applications. SFSP sponsors currently approved to serve meals under traditional SFSP are permitted to extend their operations until December 31, 2020. Sponsors who wish to continue serving meals through December 31, 2020 must complete the requirements listed in the *Instructions for Extending SFSP Operations through December 31, 2020*. The instructions can be found here. Also reference the *Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations through December 31, 2020*.

Can a School Food Authority (SFA) serve meals through the NSLP and/or SBP between the beginning of the school year 2020-2021 through December 31, 2020 and claim those meals under SFSP?
Yes, if an SFA is approved to extend summer operations under waiver **Response #56**, meals served in the NSLP and SBP from the beginning of the school year 2020-2021 until December 31, 2020 may be claimed under the SFSP. In addition, reimbursement for these meals may be claimed at the free rate. However, any student who paid for their meals must receive a refund for their meal payments.

Can a School Food Authority (SFA), approved to serve meals until December 31, 2020 under waiver Response #56, serve meals on the weekends and serve children up to 18 years of age, regardless of whether the children are enrolled in the SFA?
Approved open sites must serve all children who request a meal from those sites. SFAs may elect to operate closed enrolled sites that serve only enrolled students. All SFSP sponsors are encouraged to tailor their operations to the needs of the community. Pursuant to SFSP regulations, meals may be offered on weekends and holidays. Note: the continuation of waiver Response #56, *Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations through December 31, 2020* is contingent on the availability of funds.

May a state agency approve a school food authority (SFA) to operate SFSP/SSO at some schools and NSLP/SBP at other schools?
There is no federal requirement that an SFA can only be approved to operate one (1) Child Nutrition Program in all schools with the SFA. State agencies may approve SFAs to operate different Child Nutrition Programs based on the needs of each school. FNS strongly encourages state agencies and SFAs to provide the flexibility needed to meet varying school circumstances. State agencies may choose not to approve SFAs to operate different Child Nutrition Programs at their individual schools if operational impediments exist that would prevent them from effectively managing such arrangements.

I am a SFSP sponsor. Do I have to adhere to monitoring requirements during the public health emergency?
The USDA recognizes that in this public health emergency suspending onsite monitoring is vital to support social distancing while providing meals. Therefore, a waiver has been approved to postpone required onsite visits for all SFSP sponsoring organizations. NOTE: To ensure program integrity during this time, SFSP sponsoring organizations should, to the maximum extent practicable, continue monitoring activities of program operations offsite (e.g., through a desk audit). For SFSP sites who operate the program during normal summer operations (May through August), SFSP sponsors may also postpone required site visits until summer 2020. This waiver is effective immediately and remains in effect through September 30, 2021 or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. Sponsors must contact Leslie.Truman@decal.ga.gov if they plan to utilize this waiver.

Has DECAL submitted other waiver requests to USDA FNS for the SFSP?
DECAL issued three (3) additional waiver requests to the USDA FNS Southeast Regional Office (SERO) for the SFSP. In the waivers, DECAL requested continued use of the following:
(1) Area Eligibility in Closed Enrolled Sites (7 CFR 225.15(f)) *
(2) Meal Service Times (7 CFR 225.16(c)) **(Approved by USDA)**
(3) First Week Site Visits (7 CFR 225.15(d)(2)) **(Approved by USDA)**
*However, USDA has released the Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites in the Summer Food Service Program and the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option. Click here to access the waiver.

The executive order issued by Governor Kemp allows childcare facilities to increase the number of people allowed in a single classroom from 25 to 50. Does that requirement also apply to SFSP sites?
Unless 6 ft of distance can be maintained at all times, according to the executive order effective June 11, 2020, SFSP meal sites may operate in groups up to 50 including staff.

How can I operate a feeding site that complies with the Governor and local executive orders regarding social distancing?
Below are suggestions that may comply with the Governor's executive order effective June 11, 2020 to allow gatherings up to 50 individuals unless 6 feet of distance is always maintained. However, sponsors and sites should ensure they review and comply with any local orders that may be in place.

Organizations are solely responsible for interpreting all orders to ensure you can operate and are not violating any jurisdiction's requirements. DECAL offers limited guidance below; however, DECAL's interpretations are the department's alone and shall not be used as the only criteria to determine if a program should maintain or cease operations.

- Allow the children to walk up to the food counter one at a time
- Utilize the non-congregate waiver, and let the children pick up a meal and take it home
- Allow the children and their parent/guardians to enter the building and pick up meals in groups of 50 or less
- Limit number of staff working in the kitchen at the same time
- Clean surfaces that are frequently touched including shared countertops, kitchen areas, and doorknobs.

How do SFSP Sponsors and/or Site Supervisors complete the Racial and Ethnic Data Collection form if the site is utilizing the nationwide waiver to allow parents or guardians to pick-up meals for children or implementing home delivery?
SFSP Sponsors may conduct visual identification based on the parent, guardian or student picking up the meal or the household members residing in the home if the meal is being delivered. For example, if a white parent is picking up 10 meals for children that reside in the household, indicate 10 participants under the non-Hispanic *ethnic category* and 10 participants under the white *racial category*. For collection purposes, a participant may be included in the group to which he or she appears to belong, identifies with or is regarded as a member of the community. Program officials must use safeguards to prevent the data from being used for discriminatory purposes. Such safeguards include allowing access to this data only to authorized personnel.

If an SFA or SFSP sponsor with a FSMC contract is closed and not serving meals, can a FSMC continue to charge maintenance fees?
Maintenance fees, using a 'meals x rate' price, are not eligible for payment when program meals are not served. Other maintenance fee payment provisions that may exist are subject to state or local legal counsel review and feedback for compliance with federal, state, and local procurement standards.

If an SFA and SFSP sponsor would like a change to meal service (e.g., begin weekend meal service) which is not captured in an existing FSMC contract, is this a material change to a FSMC?
Contract modifications are subject to a cost or price analysis found in 2 CFR 200.323(a). *The non-Federal entity must perform a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of the Simplified Acquisition Threshold including contract modifications.* Once the cost or price analysis is obtained, the SFA or state agency legal counsel may determine if the change is material. State agency review and approval of such amendments is required prior to execution. 7 CFR 210.19(a)(5)

Alternatively, during COVID-19 operations, SFAs and SFSP sponsors may also use the micro-purchase method in 2 CFR 200.320(a) or non-competitive proposals as explained in 2 CFR 200.320(f)(2) to obtain the additional goods and services needed to offer weekend meal services. When using the micro-purchase method, SFAs and SFSP sponsors are reminded that while price quotes are not required, prices must be reasonable and purchases equitably distributed among qualified suppliers. To ensure program integrity moving forward, contracts resulting from non-competitive proposals may not exercise renewal options. All costs must be necessary, reasonable, and allocable to be paid using Federal Funds (2 CFR 200.403).

SFAs and SFSP sponsors with FSMC contracts are having to purchase different items to accommodate grab and go. For the contracts that are fixed-priced, should the cost of the paper products be included, or should they bill the school or sponsor for those additional products?
Billing of additional costs depends on what costs are included in the existing fixed-price contract. Additional costs amending a SFA-FSMC contract in excess of the Simplified Acquisition Threshold will be subject to 2 CFR 200.323(a), which requires a cost or price analysis in excess of the Simplified Acquisition Threshold , and 7 CFR 210.19(a)(5), which requires state agency review and approval of amendments prior to execution [7 CFR 210.19(a)(5)].

During the COVID-19 operations, SFAs and SFSP sponsors may use the micro-purchase method in 2 CFR 200.320(a) or a non-competitive proposal as explained in 2 CFR 200.320(f)(2) to obtain the additional goods. SFAs and SFSP sponsors may obtain additional services using these same procurement methods, if applicable. To ensure program integrity moving forward, contracts resulting from non-competitive proposals may not exercise renewal options. All costs must be necessary, reasonable, and allocable to be paid using Federal Funds (2 CFR 200.403). When using the micro-purchase method, SFAs and SFSP sponsors are reminded that while price quotes are not required, prices must be reasonable and purchases equitably distributed among qualified suppliers. Amending contracts executed using non-competitive proposals in 2 CFR 200.320(f)(2) must follow 2 CFR 200.323(a) as applicable, and as noted above, obtain state agency prior review and approval prior to execution.

Can SFAs or SFSP sponsors extend contracts with food distributors and milk, dairy and other suppliers with contract duration periods ending on or around June 30, 2020?
Program operators seeking to extend supplier contracts expiring on or before June 30, 2020, will need to consult state and local procurement standards to determine if contract extensions are allowable. If

contracts expire, however, Federal regulations allow program operators to use a non-competitive proposal in 2 CFR 200.320(f)(2) to negotiate one-year contracts given the public health emergency.

Can schools that have been approved for non-congregate feeding through SFSP or SSO deliver meals directly to students' homes? Also, may SFSP sponsors that are not school food authorities (SFAs) also serve non-congregate meals via meal delivery?
Yes. Both SFSP sponsors and School Food Authorities (SFAs) may serve non-congregate meals via meal delivery. If a SFA and SFSP sponsor determines there is a need and it is logistically feasible to deliver meals directly to homes, it may do so with state agency approval, adherence to all federal confidentiality requirements, and with all necessary federal waiver approvals (including an approval for non-congregate feeding). Delivery could be accomplished by mail or delivery service, or hand delivered by school staff, volunteers, community organizations, or others.

Sponsors that are not working in coordination with an SFA will not have access to school rosters of eligible children. For that reason, these sponsors must develop a method of notifying households in an area-eligible community that SFSP meals are available to all children who request them. These sponsors must also develop a method for households to provide written consent to initiate meal delivery, to confirm the household's current contact information and delivery location, and to confirm the number of children in the household that require meals. Households also must have a way of notifying the sponsor of the need for individual substitutions due to medical or other special dietary needs.

All other requirements for meal delivery in *COVID-19 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Meal Delivery Using Existing Authority, Questions and Answers* apply. For complete information, click here.

For both SFAs and non-SFA (community organization) sponsors serving non-congregate meals via home meal delivery models that utilize bus routes or mobile meal routes, should each stop be considered a SFSP site? Do they have to adhere to site requirements for a mobile meal service?
No. When performing home delivery of SFSP meals for a COVID-19 foodservice, even though the meals may be delivered via a school bus route or a mobile meal route normally used for SFSP congregate meal service in the summer months, each home would not be considered a site. Therefore, the SFSP site requirements, including site approval by the State agency, do not apply. Instead, the SFSP sponsor should ensure that the operation adheres to requirements for home meal delivery in *COVID-19 SFSP and Seamless Summer Option Meal Delivery Using Existing Authority*, March 9, 2020. For more information, click here.

Do the other nationwide waivers continue to apply once the transition is made to traditional SFSP/SSO?
Yes. The policy flexibilities offered by the collective nationwide waivers for COVID-19 operations continue to apply after Program operators transition to traditional SFSP or SSO operations. FNS will continue to assess conditions and will consider extensions of the nationwide waivers if the need for policy flexibilities continues.

Will SFSP training sessions still be offered during this time?
Web-based training sessions housed in GA ATLAS are still available. All SFSP sessions conducted via webinar will still be offered, i.e., Memo Monday, Procurement Readiness, Budget Readiness, SFSP, and

Recordkeeping 101. To view past Memo Monday sessions, visit our webpage. All SFSP Orientation and Program training sessions have been conducted for FY 2020.

Are new SFSP Sponsors allowed to utilize waivers in the SFSP?
Once a new sponsor's full application has been approved, they are eligible to utilize the waivers once waiver approval is received.

My FSMC contract is set to expire around the start of SFSP FY20 and I do not have any available renewals. Can I take advantage of the FSMC waiver by executing a one-year noncompetitive contract?
Yes. If your contract set to expire for SFSP FY20 (by or around June 30, 2020) and you do not have any available renewals you may use emergency noncompetitive procurement to extend your current contract for one additional year or proceed with a new one year emergency noncompetitive contract. Please note the emergency noncompetitive contract is only valid for one year, through June 30, 2021 with no options to renew. In addition, the use of the waiver is available until September 30, 2020 or until the expiration of the federally declared public health emergency. If you have any questions, please contact LaMonika Jones, Procurement and Purchasing Compliance Officer, (404) 656-2472 or via email LaMonika.jones@decal.ga.gov

What is a noncompetitive procurement?
Noncompetitive procurement is a contract awarded without any competition. Noncompetitive contracts do not include sole source contracts or contracts awarded under noncompetitive negotiation, both of which require negotiation. Noncompetitive contracts may be used when the public exigency or emergency for the requirement will permit a delay in competitive solicitation.

If my summer sites won't serve meals this year, for example, a college campus that won't be open, will I have to attend new sponsor training next summer?
Yes, your organization would be required to attend two-day new sponsor training in the year that you would like to participate again. All sponsoring organizations that don't participate in SFSP for a summer season are required to attend two-day new sponsor training when they would like to resume their participation. There are always new policies, guidance or updates to federal regulations that occur throughout the year, and we want to ensure you are up to date on the current requirements.

How can families find the meal sites located in their area or community?
DECAL is getting the word out about where families can find meals for kids during school closures. We're collecting updates from our sponsoring organizations across the state and posting them here. Share the link with your friends to help spread the news that there are opportunities around Georgia for kids to get a healthy meal. Check back often for updates. The USDA's "Meals for Kids" interactive map also directs people to local sites where kids can get free meals. The map will be refreshed and published weekly, as is the normal cycle over the summer. The map is available in both English and Spanish at www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids.

With the situation of the Pandemic by COVID -19 , why are we required to get a Permit for the Kitchen in the name of Our organization when the kitchen we are renting for the SFSP already has permit? Can we waive this requirement for such a time like this so we can serve our community?
The requirement for the food service permit is a Department of Public Health requirement. The regulations require that we adhere to all the local health and sanitation requirements applicable to our state. As it stands, DPH requires that the food service permit is required if an organization is self-

prepping their meals and that permit needs to be in the name of that organization. If any exceptions to the permit requirement is desired, sponsors should contact their local health department.

Can we provide hot supper meals at mobile sites? They would be set up so that children come through a line and pick up a to-go-plate meal.
Summer Food sponsors have the option of providing hot supper meals at mobile sites to-go containers. CACFP providers/institutions now have the option of offering congregate feeding so you also provide meals in a "take out" container through a mobile site or supper. You want to make sure your application always reflects your current operations.

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM & SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Do I need to complete the meal pattern waiver if I am having a problem finding milk?
Yes. Institutions or sponsors who cannot provide certain meal components due to a food shortage need to request a waiver and document the shortage of that meal component. Institutions or sponsors may be able to claim the meal without the required meal component if they have an approved meal pattern waiver for the component not served. Contact Leslie Truman with any waiver related questions at Leslie.Truman@decal.ga.gov or 404-657-1779. ***Meal Pattern Waiver is in effect until **December 31, 2020 for SFSP** and **June 30, 2021 for CACFP*****

Will there be leniency with meal pattern compliance due to food shortages?
With waiver approval, the requirement to serve meals that meet the meal pattern requirements is waived during the public health emergency. Institutions or sponsors who cannot provide certain meal components due to a food shortage may request a waiver and document the shortage of that meal component. Institutions or sponsors may be able to claim the meal without the required meal component if they have an approved meal pattern waiver for the component not served. Contact Leslie Truman with any waiver related questions at Leslie.Truman@decal.ga.gov or 404-657-1779.
Meal Pattern Waiver is in effect until **December 31, 2020 for SFSP** and **June 30, 2021 for CACFP**

Will I be able to continue to offer grab and go or mobile meals this summer?
Yes, sponsors who have been approved to use the non-congregate waiver will be allowed to offer grab and go or mobile meals. The meal times and non-congregate waiver also allows you to distribute multiple meals for the entire week.
***Non-Congregate Waiver is in effect until **December 31, 2020 for SFSP** and **June 30, 2021 for CACFP** ***

Are we required to follow the standard mealtime requirements during COVID-19?
With waiver approval, the requirement that meals must follow meal service time requirements is waived during the public health emergency. This waiver waives the requirement that a certain amount of time must lapse between meal services and the requirement that the meal service be limited to a certain amount of time. However, the waiver still requires sponsors to establish a meal service time. Keep your application current with meal service times. DECAL must know your actual meal service times so that DECAL reviewers will know what time meal services will begin and end.
Meal Times Waiver is in effect until **December 31, 2020 for SFSP** and **June 30, 2021 for CACFP**

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing, can Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators provide online training to Program staff?

Yes, if onsite training is **not** conducted due to social distancing, Program operators may conduct online training via webinar or provide staff and/or sponsored sites with training materials via other methods, such as email. If internet access is unavailable, staff and/or sponsored sites may pick up hard-copies of training materials. Training materials may include, but are not limited to:

- PowerPoint presentation
- CACFP/SFSP Handbooks (*Independent Child Care Center CACFP*; *At-Risk Afterschool Meals Handbook; SFSP Administrative Guide*)
- CACFP/SFSP policies/memos
- Assessment (optional)

Program operators must collect and maintain documentation to verify that all staff and/or sponsored sites have been trained. If written signatures are **not** obtained on sign-in sheets, the Program operator may request an email confirmation from staff and/or sponsored sites to certify that training materials were received and reviewed. Or the Program operator may create and disseminate an assessment to staff and/or sponsored sites to complete and return to verify training completion. In summary, the following documentation must be maintained.

- Training Agenda
- A list of staff members that received training materials
- Date training materials were disseminated
- How training materials were disseminated (webinar; web-based; email; hard-copy)
- Printed email from staff to certify that training has been received and reviewed **or** a completed, printed assessment from staff

Please feel free to contact your assigned Technical Assistance Coordinator or the Nutrition TA mailbox at **NutritionTA@decal.ga.gov** with any further questions/concerns.

Name	Title	Phone	Email	Region
LaKisha Robinson	TA Coordinator	(478) 314-2806	LaKisha.Robinson@decal.ga.gov	Southeast
Deidrea Thompson	TA Coordinator	(866) 370-3203	Deidrea.Thompson@decal.ga.gov	East
Victoria Thomas	TA Coordinator	(470) 532-0873	Victoria.Thomas@decal.ga.gov	Southwest
Nkem Ijeh	TA Coordinator	(404) 973-4099	Nkem.Ijeh@decal.ga.gov	North/NW
Tanya Coleman	TA Coordinator	(470) 373-7826	Tanya.Coleman@decal.ga.gov	Metro West

How do I submit a waiver request?

If you would like to utilize any of the USDA nationwide waivers recently approved to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus, please complete the applicable Waiver Request Form located here and submit it to Leslie.Truman@decal.ga.gov

Once your waiver forms(s) is/are submitted, please allow DECAL adequate time to process the information and respond with either an approval or denial of each request. Approved nationwide waivers include those for meal times, meal patterns, non-congregate feeding, parent pick-up, monitoring requirements, FSMC contract and area eligibility. To request a waiver for anything else not mentioned, please contact Leslie.Truman@decal.ga.gov

What resources or policy guidance is available relating to the Coronavirus?
To date, the following guidance was posted to the DECAL website:

- Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks, March 13, 2020
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
    - http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/index.htm
    - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html
    - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf
- Georgia Department of Public Health
    - http://dph.georgia.gov/influenza-what-you-need-know
    - https://dph.georgia.gov/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-outbreak

Am I able to donate leftover perishable food items to my children during the public health emergency?
Currently, DECAL is not aware of any flexibility allowing excess food (specifically perishable food items) purchased for the CACFP or SFSP to be donated to program participants in the wake of unforeseen circumstances such as Coronavirus.

Because of unforeseen circumstances, occasionally there will be leftover food. All alternatives permitted by program regulations and state and local health and sanitation codes should be exhausted before discarding food. Options may include using leftovers in subsequent meal services, offering "sharing tables," or transferring food to other sites. (See attached: Donation of Leftover Foods from School Cafeterias, June 11, 1996). Where it is not feasible to reuse leftovers, excess food may be donated to a non-profit organization, such as a community food bank, homeless shelter, or other nonprofit charitable organizations. See:
https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP11_CACFP05_SFSP07-2012os.pdf

When do the waivers end?
All of the waivers are located on the COVID-19 resources page. Click on the document to see the end date for each waiver. A convenient chart that includes the waiver duration and description is available in the **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS** section of this document.

What food items may be provided in bulk when providing multiple meals at a time during COVID-19?
The following food items may be provided in bulk.

- Foods that normally credit towards reimbursable meals under the CACFP or SFSP.
- Foods that are recognizable as a meal component in a reimbursable meal.
- Foods that do not require much preparation or the addition of other ingredients (aside from water) before eating.

Can frozen bulk foods be provided when serving multiple meals at a time during COVID-19?
Yes. Frozen foods, which require minimal preparation other than heating, may be provided as part of meals if they meet meal pattern requirements. Providing foods in a frozen state may present a safe way to offer perishable foods for consumption later in the week (for example, 4 or 5 days after distribution).

What documentation is required when providing multiple meals at a time during COVID-19?
When providing multiple meals at a time, Program operators must continue to maintain documentation and menu records that show the served meal components and quantities for each age group. Program

operators must keep supporting menu documentation, such as labels, recipes, and manufacturer specifications in accordance with Program regulations.

Are we required to provide meal accommodations when providing bulk food items and/or providing multiple meals at a time during COVID-19?
Program operators must continue to provide reasonable modifications to Program meals or the meal service to accommodate children with disabilities.

What should Program operators consider when deciding how many days of meals to provide at a time during COVID-19?
Program operators should consider the following when deciding how many days of meals to provide at a time.

- How long foods may be safely stored before eating?
- How long foods can be stored before food quality suffers?
- Participants' access to refrigeration and freezer space for the amounts of food and milk provided.
- Food storage space at the child care site and on meal delivery vehicles (such as buses or food trucks).
- Whether fewer pick-up days and times will decrease access to meals for some children.

Can children, or in CACFP, adult participants, pick up multiple meals at the same time?
Yes. Under the Meal Service Times Flexibility waiver, Program operators are not required to serve meals at a certain time, or to allow a certain amount of time to elapse between meals. Therefore, Program operators participating under this waiver and the Non-Congregate Feeding waiver may allow children or adult participants to pick up multiple meals at one time, up to one week at a time. The maximum number of meals that may be served and claimed for Federal reimbursement per child or adult participant per day remains the same, however, the State agency may approve a distribution approach that allows children or adult participants to pick up meals for multiple days, up to one week at a time. Program operators must continue to maintain documentation and menu records that show the served meal components and quantities for each age group. Program operators must keep supporting menu documentation, such as labels, recipes, and manufacturer specifications in accordance with Program regulations.

Is the purchase of personal protective equipment or other supplies that are intended to prevent or reduce the spread of COVID-19 an allowable cost?
Yes. Personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves and face masks) as well as cleaning and sanitary supplies are allowable costs during the current public health emergency, provided that such purchases are made in support of child nutrition program operations. All purchases must continue to meet the required criteria of being reasonable, necessary and allocable (refer to 2 CFR 200.404 and 200.405).

May funds from the nonprofit food service account be used to purchase bottled water (as an alternative to water fountains and other on-site options) for non-congregate meals served during the public health emergency?
Yes. The purchase of potable bottled water to supplement meals served in non-congregate settings is an allowable cost. For further information, please click on the following policy memorandums: *Water Availability in CACFP* and *Resources for Making Potable Water Available in Schools and Child Care*

Facilities. State and local agencies are reminded that milk is expected to be served as part of each reimbursable meal and potable water may not be provided as a substitute for milk.

May local program operators pay staff salaries using funds from the nonprofit food service account when employees are unable to work due to mandatory closures related to the current public health emergency? Is compensation in the form of hazard pay for employees who are still working also allowable?

Yes, but only when such employee absences are covered under the local program operator's written Compensation Plan or established personnel policies. FNS has determined that local program operators with such policies may continue to pay out salaries and benefits to their employees during mandatory closures due to COVID-19, which qualify as an "authorized absence from the job" for affected employees in accordance with the requirements of 2 CFR 200.431(b). These payments must be consistent with the program operator's Compensation Plan of paying salaries (under unexpected or extraordinary circumstances) from all funding sources, Federal and non-Federal, and must be fully allocable. Compensation in the form of hazard pay for employees continuing to work is further considered an allowable cost, provided that such compensation is similarly permissible under the program operator's Compensation Plan, and the hazard pay in question is reasonable.

Any of these covered personnel costs may be charged retroactively to the date upon which mandated staff absences and/or work that occurred when the hazardous conditions related to COVID-19 began. Program operators may draft or updated their Compensation Plan to include leave, salaries, and benefits during unexpected and extraordinary circumstances if it is not already in place. Any new or updated policies to the Compensation Plan must also be fully in accordance with the requirements of 2 CFR, and consistent in their payment of salaries and benefits regardless of the funding sources used/available, both Federal and non-Federal (as described above).

How should SFAs, institutions or other grantees treat non-refundable costs for events and activities that were cancelled due to COVID-19 closures and social distancing protocols?

If an institution, or other child nutrition program grantee had expended funds for an approved and otherwise allowable program cost (e.g., travel, meeting registration, supplies) for an event or activity that was cancelled due to COVID-19 closures, and those costs were not refunded by the vendor, the grantee may charge those costs to their program. Grantees should keep records of the original expense, and their attempt to obtain refunds. Grantees should also ensure that any materials of value, such as travel vouchers, supplies, materials, etc., that can be repurposed or used later, are used for the operation of the child nutrition program or a related activity. This flexibility applies only to costs incurred prior to the expiration of OMB Memo, M-20-17, "Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus, Due to the Loss of Operations."

Given the fact that food costs have increased dramatically, will the meal reimbursement rate increase?

We are not aware of any changes in the meal reimbursement rates. If the rates do change, we will communicate that information to you as soon we receive it.

How do I keep my meal sites safe?

We know you are taking every precaution to protect the employees, volunteers and families at your meal sites. However, we would like to take a moment to remind you about the process to follow should

you learn that an individual (be it a child, parent, or staff member) becomes ill and tests positive for COVID-19.

*Please **immediately:***

- ***cease** the meal service,*
- ***report** the case to your local health department,*
- ***contact** your application specialist or Leslie Truman at 404.657.1779*
- ***quarantine** the area and persons impacted for 14 days.*

*If you need additional guidance, please visit the CDC website **here**.*

Can neighborhood representatives or community members pick up meals on behalf of various households? No. Only the actual parent or guardian of the eligible child may pick up meals. Sponsors requesting to utilize the parent pick up waiver will be required to demonstrate that controls are in place to ensure that only parents or guardians pick up meals for eligible children and adults and that they are not receiving duplicate meals.

Do I need to apply for the waivers, or can I automatically use them?
While DECAL has opted into participating in several USDA waivers, sponsors must request and receive approval in order to utilize the waivers. This applies to waivers used in the CACFP and SFSP. The waiver forms can be found on the DECAL Nutrition COVID-19 webpage,
http://www.decal.ga.gov/Nutrition/Covid19Resources.aspx

Can Head Start Programs serve meals during the public health emergency?
Head Start locations may continue to participate in the CACFP in the summer but will need to update their site applications to reflect the new operating dates and notify their Business Operations Representative of the change. Alternatively, Head Start locations may serve meals under an existing SFSP Sponsor. There are several waivers that are now available for SFSP and CACFP. Head Start Programs currently participating in the CACFP can notify DECAL if they wish to participate in the waivers. For additional information, contact Leslie.Truman@decal.ga.gov

The Monitoring Nationwide Waivers ask state agencies and local operators to continue monitoring activities of program operations offsite to the maximum extent practicable. Which portions of the review could a state agency conduct offsite?
Desk reviews can be conducted by reviewing records that have been mailed, faxed, or delivered to the state agency. For example, the state agency monitor may evaluate the school's/institution's audit, budget, and training attendance via desk review. Desk reviews may be conducted for paperwork-centric areas, such as free and reduced-price meal applications; enrollment rosters; audits; receipts; menus; claims; five-day reconciliation (for all meals, not just one observed); and meal counts vs. attendance.

For portions of the review where direct observation is normally required, what alternatives may states and locals use to complete reviews offsite?
In situations where direct observation normally occurs, such as observation of meal preparation, meal pattern components, verification of attendance, and food safety issues, examples of alternatives include state and local program operators conducting alternative observation using video or photos and/or

pictures of meal preparation and meal service. States may also conduct interviews with staff and program participants via telephone or video conference to verify information in photos.

Is the Nondiscrimination Statement required on informational materials and websites?
States are not relieved of their obligation to include the required Nondiscrimination Statement (NDS) on all printed and electronic program materials made available to applicants, participants, and potentially eligible persons for public information, public education, or public distribution. This includes, but is not limited to, information pertaining to eligibility, benefits, services, the location of local facilities or service delivery points, and hours of service.

If the size of the material is too small to include the full statement, the material must, at a minimum, include the following statement in print in the same font size as the main text: "This institution is an equal opportunity provider." On websites, the Nondiscrimination Statement (NDS) or a link to it, must be included on the home page of the program information.

If a Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) site closes as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, can it become a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) site and offer meals? What if schools in the area have or have not closed?
A CACFP site that is closed during the pandemic may become an SFSP site under an SFSP sponsor that has been approved by the State agency. If the sponsor intends to operate the site as an open site and serve the community at large, the site must be located in an eligible area, unless the State agency has approval to waive the area eligibility requirement and has approved the site to operate under the waiver. SFSP sites may only operate during the regular school year in cases of unanticipated school closures, or during breaks for schools operating on a continuous calendar. If schools in an area are open, meals would be served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and SFSP would not be an option.

If a child care center or day care home continues to provide CACFP meals and snacks during the COVID-19 pandemic, can the facility also be approved to operate as an SFSP site?
Yes. CACFP institutions that have developed a separate food service program for children who are not enrolled in their day care homes or centers may be approved to participate as an SFSP site under an SFSP sponsor that has been approved by the State agency. The CACFP institution must meet SFSP eligibility criteria, ensure that the same children are not served meals in both programs, and keep separate records for each program. To operate as an open SFSP site, the facility must be located in an "area in which poor economic conditions exist," as defined at 7 CFR 225.2 of SFSP regulations, unless the State agency is approved to grant waivers of the restrictions on site eligibility. SFSP sites may only operate during the regular school year in cases of unanticipated school closures, or during breaks for schools operating on a continuous calendar. If schools in an area are open, meals would be served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and SFSP would not be an option.

Will racial and ethnic data be collected if it is not provided by applicants during telephone interviews and online systems?
For current households, states may use existing school meal enrollment applications. For new applications, states are encouraged to utilize information from other State Education agencies, or from other household public assistance benefits received such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Will meal pattern waivers affect a program operator's responsibility to make meal modifications for participants with disabilities?
During this public health emergency, States and program operators are not relieved of their obligation to provide meal modifications for participants with disabilities. When planning a non-congregate meal service, State agencies and program operators should consider how individuals who require meal modifications will be identified and served.

May Program operators provide non-congregate meals at different locations that were not previously approved by the State agency?
No. The State agency must approve all locations for distribution of meals.

Under the current nationwide waivers allowing non-congregate feeding and no meal time restrictions due to COVID-19, may Child Nutrition Program operators provide food items in bulk, either through pick up or home delivery, without additional waivers?

Under current statutory and regulatory authority and in conjunction with recent COVID-19 waivers allowing non-congregate feeding and no meal time restrictions, when providing multiple meals at one time, Program operators may provide bulk items as long as individual meals are easily identifiable as a reimbursable meal. When implementing such a delivery mechanism, Program operators:

- Must include the required food components in the proper minimum amounts for each reimbursable meal being claimed;
- Must ensure that food items are clearly identifiable as making up reimbursable meals;
- Are strongly encouraged to provide menus with directions indicating which items are to be used for each meal and the portion sizes;
- Should consider whether households have access to refrigeration, stoves, microwaves, etc., when providing food that requires refrigeration or further preparation, such as reheating; and
- Should ensure that only minimal preparation is required, and that food is not provided as ingredients for recipes that require chopping, mixing, baking, etc.

Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 226.6(i)(11), State agencies may approve requested flexibilities for unitized meals prepared by food service management companies or delivered to CACFP outside-school-hours care centers.

Do you need to have "And Justice for All" (AJFA) posters on mobile routes for COVID-19 meal distribution?
The AJFA poster must be prominently displayed in all facilities and locations that distribute program benefits or administer services. Due to COVID-19, if printed AJFA posters are not available for display, paper copies may be substituted as necessary, including use of the 2015 AJFA poster, if new (2019) posters have not been received. Meals delivered from stationary vans or buses should display the AJFA poster. For vehicles making door-to-door drop deliveries at homes and businesses, the AJFA poster does not need to be displayed.

What is the maximum number of Program meals and snacks that can be claimed for Federal reimbursement each day?
The maximum number of meals or snacks that can be claimed for Federal reimbursement, per child or adult participant, per day, varies by Program:

- NSLP: Up to one lunch per child per day;

- NSLP Afterschool Snack Service: Up to one snack per child per day;
- NSLP Seamless Summer Option: Up to two meals, or one meal and one snack, per child, per day, in any combination except lunch and supper;
- SBP: Up to one breakfast per child per day;
- CACFP Child and Adult Care: Up to two meals and one snack, or two snacks and one meal, per child or adult participant per day;
- CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component: Up to one meal and one
- snack, per child per day;
- CACFP Emergency Shelters: Up to three meals, per resident 18 years and younger, per day; or
- SFSP: Up to two meals, or one meal and one snack, per child, per day, in any combination except lunch and supper.

Some Program operators participate in multiple Programs. For example, under typical circumstances, in one day, a Program operator may serve a child breakfast through SBP, lunch through NSLP, and supper and snack through CACFP At-Risk. Under the waivers, a child may still participate in more than one program, but in no circumstances shall a child receive more than the number of meals allowed in each Program for which they are eligible. Operators must also ensure children do not receive duplicates of the same meal.

Do we have authorization to pay food service staff double time, such as cooks, when they come in to prepare meals? We have not received specific guidance from the USDA on this topic, however, any CACFP institution should adhere to its approved budgeted amounts and compensation plan.

What is an example of a non-congregate setting?
There are different variations. We've seen some facilities provide meals that are packaged in a to-go box at their existing site that has already been approved. It's a complete unitized meal that the child picks up and takes home. This is also appropriate when serving meals to adults. Another option would be to provide meals at the door so that no one enters the facility.

Is there a list of approved vendors able to provide meals and/or individual food items during the emergency? DECAL Nutrition Services currently does not have an "approved" list of vendors. However, below you will find a link to vendors and supplier currently serving our program providers.
http://decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/CACFP_SFSP_WebVendorList.pdf

Will claims be processed as usual or will they be delayed?
We don't anticipate any delays in claims processing. Continue to adhere to the claim's submission requirements, and you will be paid according to the regular schedule.

How do I add sites to my SFSP or CACFP application? Do we fax Add a Site packages to the DECAL Nutrition office?
Submit your emergency feeding sites to your business operations representative. Approving additional sites is a priority, so our Nutrition staff will process sites as quickly as possible. There are several options to submit information. You may email your application specialist with an add a site package or checklist or upload it to ATLAS and alert your business ops specialist by sending them your confirmation email.

How should milk be properly handled and distributed?
It is required that you maintain milk at the appropriate temperature of 40 degrees or less. Additionally,

you need to ensure you have appropriate holding facilities to keep the milk at the right temperature. If you are sending milk home, the easiest way to provide it is in individual servings.

Is it allowable to freeze milk and use it after the expiration date?
Although unopened milk is safely stored in the freezer at 0ºF for up to three months, freezing milk is not recommended. Freezing milk, specifically high fat milk (whole milk), causes changes that will deteriorate the texture, preventing it from being used as fluid milk. Additionally, the CACFP Crediting Handbook provides guidance that foods past the expiration date are not creditable. Therefore, if the milk expires, the milk will need to be discarded even if it has been frozen.

If we are experiencing a milk shortage, what beverage alternative can we serve?
When experiencing a shortage of cow's milk, non-dairy alternatives may be used. However, alternatives must be nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk. Requiring non-dairy alternatives to be nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk ensures children receive vital nutrients needed for growth and development. Alternatives served to children ages 1-5 must be unflavored due to the higher sugar content of flavored varieties.

Acceptable non-dairy or cow's milk alternatives include:

- Low-fat or fat-free lactose-reduced, buttermilk and acidified milk
- Goat milk, sheep milk, buffalo milk (must be pasteurized)
- Soy milk (calcium and vitamin D fortified)

Unacceptable non-dairy or cow's milk alternatives include:
(These are examples and do not represent a comprehensive list.)

- Juice
- Almond milk
- Rice milk
- Almond milk "plus"
- Cashew milk
- Coconut milk
- Water
- Hemp milk
- Oat milk
- Whole grain drink
- Flax milk
- Calcium-fortified orange juice

Yogurt may not be substituted for fluid milk for children of any age. This is because milk provides a wealth of nutrients growing children need, such as vitamin A and D, and comparable quantities of these nutrients are not currently found in commercially available yogurts.

If cow's milk and acceptable non-dairy alternatives on the above acceptable list are served, no special approvals or waivers are required. However, if cow's milk or acceptable non-dairy alternatives are not available, and you are a CACFP or SFSP participant, you may contact DECAL to discuss a waiver of the milk requirement. Approvals would be based on a reasonable and justified need (e.g., public health emergency).

Governor Kemp has ordered many state employees to work from home to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Does DECAL plan to close their offices? If so, what is the best way to submit CACFP and/or SFSP documents to the team?
Currently, DECAL does not plan to close our offices although many DECAL employees are teleworking to ensure greater social distancing. Regardless, DECAL including the Nutrition Services division is conducting business as usual.

The Nutrition Division asks all institutions to submit CACFP and/or SFSP documents electronically via email or uploaded in GA ATLAS. If information is uploaded in GA ATLAS, notify your assigned Application Specialist or Business Operations Representative.

For CACFP/SFSP Applications, contact:
Institutions 0 (zero) - G
Paula Lawrence, Application Specialist
404-463-2111
Paula.lawrence@decal.ga.gov
Institutions H-P
Sherika Blount, Application Specialist
404-656-6411
Shericka.blount@decal.ga.gov

Institutions Q-Z
Brandi Banks, Application Specialist
470-725-6543
Brandi.banks@decal.ga.gov

For CACFP/SFSP Add-a-Site Packages or Sponsor Updates, contact:
Institutions 0 (zero) - G
Temika Moore, Business Operations Representative
404-463-1494
Temika.moore@decal.ga.gov

Institutions H-P
Kenya Taylor, Business Operations Representative
404-463-4040
Kenya.taylor@decal.ga.gov

Institutions Q-Z
Edith Pierre, Business Operations Representative
404-463-8314
Edith.pierre@decal.ga.gov

Are sponsors and institutions required to follow proper procurement procedures during an emergency?
Emergency purchases are defined as situations when the welfare of life, property, or the continuation of vital programs are in jeopardy and require immediate, on-the-spot purchases. Emergency purchases can be issued when there is limited time to purchase in the regular manner since the item or service is

needed immediately. During an emergency, purchase, micro-purchase, and small purchase procedures are acceptable. Sponsors and institutions must have a process in place to document written quotes received via telephone and keep invoices and receipts on file. Contact DECAL if emergency purchases exceed formal procurement threshold limits.
See http://decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/ProcurementManual.pdf

What is necessary to amend budgets to get approval for disinfectants, etc. when these products become more readily available?
Due to the current situation, cleaning supplies such as disinfectants would be considered necessary and reasonable costs. If an institution would like to charge these costs, the ATLAS Budget Detail (Non-food supplies budget category) must be revised if any of the following factors apply:

- A new cost is incurred that wasn't previously approved in the budget
- A line item increases or decreases by 20% or more. A line item is defined as the function level, Operating and Administrative and/or the Program level CACFP and SFSP. If a change impacts either level by 20% or more, a budget revision is required.
- When allocation methodologies change due to changes within the organization resulting in an increase or decrease of 20% or more.
- A new cost item will be incurred that requires prior or specific prior approval or special consideration (i.e., formal procurement)
- When an approved specific prior written approval item's actual cost is found to be more than the actual approved amount
- Costs that exceed established maximums are unallowable, and the 20% rule does not apply when established maximums are breached.

Once the budget revision is completed, notify the Budget Compliance Specialist at Tremachel.Johnson@decal.ga.gov

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Transitional Menu Planning Tool
Click here to access the Transitional Menu Planning Tool. The Texas Department of Agriculture developed this great tool for menu planning during COVID. Written for schools, this can also help Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators as they consider menu and service needs. Start planning now to be prepared for the fall. Service style may change but your menus and products can stay the same. By planning a quality, transitional menu now, you will be prepared for any service style

DECAL Participation of Nationwide Waivers Due to COVID-19
Pursuant to the COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response Act (the Act) (H.R. 6201, Title II), and based on the exceptional circumstances of this public health emergency, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) established several nationwide waivers to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus.

Consistent with section 2202(a)(2) of the Act, while these waivers apply automatically to all states that elect to use them and without further application, state agencies must first inform their FNS Regional Office if they elect to be subject to the waiver(s).

The following table lists all waivers that DECAL has elected to utilize and has communicated to USDA's Southeast Regional Office (SERO).

Organizations that wish to utilize any of the waivers in the table must first notify Leslie Truman at Leslie.Truman@decal.ga.gov.

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service has released two new Team Nutrition resources that address meal service flexibilities during the coronavirus public health emergency. Regional offices and state agencies are encouraged to share these resources with Child Nutrition Program operators. Both resources are available for download from the Team Nutrition website.

- Child Nutrition Program Meal Service During COVID-19: Best Practices for Parent Pick Up https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/child-nutrition-program-meal-service-during-covid-19
- Feeding Kids When Schools Are Closed Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/feeding-kids-when-schools-are-closed

Transitional Menu Planning Tool

Click here to access the Transitional Menu Planning Tool. The Texas Department of Agriculture developed this great tool for menu planning during COVID. Written for schools, this can also help Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators as they consider menu and service needs. Start planning now to be prepared for the fall. Service style may change but your menus and products can stay the same. By planning a quality, transitional menu now, you will be prepared for any service style.

Nutrition Services Emergency Feeding Vendor Resource List

Click here to access the Nutrition Services Emergency Feeding Vendor Resource List. This resource provides a list of vendors that offer essential supplies including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), food service, disposable food items and more.

Waiver Type	Applicable Program(s)	Brief Description of Waiver (*For full details, please refer to the actual waiver memo*)
Activity Requirement in At-Risk Afterschool	CACFP	The requirement that at-risk afterschool care centers/sites serve afterschool meals and snacks in a structured and supervised environment, with an educational or enrichment activity is waived during the public health emergency. *****Waiver expired on June 30, 2020*****
Area Eligibility in At-Risk Afterschool	CACFP	The requirement that at-risk afterschool care centers must be located in the attendance area of a school in which at least 50% of the enrolled children are certified eligible for free or reduced-price school meals is waived during the public health emergency. *****Waiver in effect until December 31, 2020*****
Meal Pattern Flexibilities	CACFP	The requirement to serve meals that meet the meal pattern requirements is waived during the public health emergency. *****Waiver extended until June 30, 2021*****

Meal Times Waiver	CACFP	The requirement that meals must follow meal service time requirements is waived during the public health emergency. *****Waiver extended until June 30, 2021*****
Non-congregate Feeding	CACFP	The requirement that meals be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site is waived during the public health emergency. *****Waiver extended until June 30, 2021*****
Parent Pick-Up	CACFP	Under this waiver, program operators in a state with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution during COVID-19 related operations may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their eligible children. *****Waiver extended until June 30, 2021*****
Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP Sponsoring Organizations	CACFP	***For sponsors only*** – FNS waives, for all CACFP sponsoring, that CACFP monitoring requirements included at 7 CFR 226.16(d)(4)(iii) be conducted onsite. *****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021*****
Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for CACFP Sponsoring Organizations	CACFP	***For sponsors only*** – CACFP monitoring requirements are waived as follows: (1) sponsors may conduct two reviews of their CACFP facilities; (2) only one CACFP facility review is required to be unannounced; (3) FNS waives that at least one unannounced review must include observation of a meal service; (4) FNS waives the requirement that not more than six months may elapse between reviews; and (5) allows sponsors to review new CACFP facilities as a desk audit. *****Waiver expired on August 31, 2020*****
(60) Day Reporting Requirements for January and February 2020 Claims	CACFP & SFSP	The requirement to submit claims for reimbursement no more than 60 days after the last day of the month has been waived for claims covering operations during the months of January and February 2020. *****Waiver is no longer in effect*****
Waiver to Extend the SFSP Operations	SFSP	This waiver allows the Summer Food Service Program to continue operation through **December 31, 2020**.
Meal Pattern Flexibilities	SFSP	The requirement to serve meals that meet the meal pattern requirements is waived during the public health emergency. *****Waiver extended until December 31, 2020 *****
Meal Times Waiver	SFSP	The requirement that meals must follow meal service time requirements is waived during the public health emergency.

		*****Waiver extended until December 31, 2020 *****
Non-congregate Feeding	SFSP	The requirement that meals be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site is waived during the public health emergency. *****Waiver extended until December 31, 2020 *****
Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP Sponsoring Organizations	SFSP	***For sponsors only*** – FNS waives that SFSP monitoring requirements included at 7 CFR 225.15(d) be conducted on site. *****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021*****
Parent Pick-Up	SFSP	Under this waiver, program operators in a state with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution during COVID-19 related operations may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their eligible children. *****Waiver extended until December 31, 2020 *****
Closed Enrolled Site Eligibility	SFSP	Under this waiver, for all states, SFSP and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) closed enrolled sites during the COVID-19 public health emergency may determine site eligibility through area eligibility without collecting income eligibility applications. *****Waiver extended until December 31, 2020 *****
First Week Site Visits	SFSP	(1) FNS waives, for all states, the requirement that SFSP sponsors are required to visit each of their sites at least once during the first week of operation. (2) This waiver applies to state agencies administering and local organizations that have operated the SFSP successfully in the previous year, and SFSP sponsors in good standing that have successfully participated in the CACFP or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). *****Waiver extended until December 31, 2020 *****
Waiver of Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Duration	SFSP	This waives, for all state agencies, school food authorities, and SFSP sponsors the food service management company contracts duration requirements at 7 CFF 210.16(d) and 225.6(h)(7). FSMC contracts that may expire by or around June 30, 2020, may be extended through school year 2020-2021 (June 30, 2021). To ensure program integrity during this time, extended FSMC contracts are limited to one-year only. *****Waiver in effect until September 30, 2020*****
Waiver to Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations	SFSP	This waiver delays transition from SFSP operations during unanticipated school closures associated with COVID-19 to traditional SFSP operations. *****Waiver expired on June 30, 2020*****

Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility for Open Sites	SFSP	FNS waives, for all states, the requirement that SFSP sponsors are required to operate open sites in *"areas in which poor economic conditions exist."* *****Waiver extended until December 31, 2020 *****

Activities to do with young children for families and providers
As many of us practice social distancing and self-quarantine, finding activities and things to do with young children can be challenging. We have compiled a list of gardening, cooking, and other outdoor activities/resources for families and providers.

You will find a list of children's books, songs, and free curriculum related to gardening, food, and nutrition in this document called "Farm to ECE Resources for At-home Activities". If you are looking for a specific outdoor activity - see the Tree Exploration Activity. If you would like a handful of fun farm to ECE activities to suggest to families, see Gardening and Cooking Songs, Books, and Tips for Families.

We hope you find these resources helpful during this challenging time.

Serving Meals in CACFP During COVID-19
Helpful Guide for Meal Planning Alternatives

Utilize the "Serving Meals in the CACFP during COVID-19" resource to help in menu planning during COVID-19. Whatever challenges you are facing, we recognize that meals served during the pandemic will look different than normal with unique challenges arising. This resource may help in determining alternate meal components during times of food shortage.

FoodCorps Resources to Support Remote Education
The FoodCorps shares their COVID-19 Resource Page which includes access to hands-on lessons that are best suited to do with kids at home

Resources for Learning at Home
Click here to explore the Captain Planet Foundation's recommended resources for learning at home. Our current situation highlights now, more than ever, the importance of kids understanding how to connect with nature, how to grow their own food, how to build their agency for problem-solving, and how to be an empathetic global citizen. In order to support you we pulled together a curated guide of free or low-cost resources for K-12 students to continue learning and explore their environment.

Resources for Farm to School and farm to early care and education
Click here to explore the National Farm to School Network's resources related to COVID-19 that are relevant to the farm to school and farm to early care and education community.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
Nondiscrimination Statement: English Spanish