



May 15, 2026



Infant Formula Recall Notice

Warning: Specific batches of a2 Platinum Premium USA Label Infant Formula (0–12 months) have been recalled due to a potential health risk. This recall is being conducted with the knowledge of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The a2 Milk Company issued the recall after detecting cereulide, a heat-stable toxin that is not removed during formula preparation.

Health Information

Symptoms may occur within 30 minutes to 6 hours and include nausea and vomiting. While typically short-term, infants are at higher risk and may require medical care. Although no illnesses have been reported, affected product must NOT be used.

Impacted Product:

- a2 Platinum Premium Infant Formula (0–12 months), 31.7 oz tin
- Batch #2210269454 (7/15/2026)
- Batch #2210324609 (1/21/2027)
- Batch #2210321712 (1/15/2027)

Action Required:

- Immediately discontinue use
- Remove from service areas
- Dispose of or return the product
- Ensure staff are aware of the recall



For questions, contact a2MC at 1-844-422-6455 or visit a2platinum.com.

Please take prompt action to ensure the safety of the children in your care.

Look Again Campaign Promotes Child Safety Awareness

DECAL recently launched its annual “Look Again” campaign, marking 13 years of raising awareness about the dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles.

As temperatures rise across Georgia, the campaign encourages families, caregivers, and child care providers to stay alert and take simple steps to prevent pediatric vehicular heatstroke.



This year's campaign is supported in partnership with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, the Georgia Department of Public Safety, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration—all working together to help keep Georgia's children safe.

Watch the campaign launch video: Click [here](#)

Save the Date: CACFP Summit

Friday, August 28, 2026

Nutrition Services will host a CACFP Summit on Friday, August 28, 2026, at the Hilton Peachtree City Atlanta Hotel & Conference Center.

All CACFP institutions are invited to attend for additional professional development.

Watch your email for program and registration details.



Strengthen Your Child and Adult Care Food Program!

Contact your TA to schedule a visit.



Your Partner in Success

Technical Assistance Coordinators Are Here To Help

Training, guidance, and the right resources make all the difference in helping you feel prepared and confident for upcoming compliance visits.

Your regional Nutrition Technical Assistance (TA) Coordinator is here to support you every step of the

way. Whether you need help understanding program requirements, preparing documentation, or strengthening your daily operations, they are your go-to resource.

How Your TA Coordinator Can Support You:

- Review program requirements and ensure compliance
- Provide guidance on meal patterns, documentation, and best practices,
- Answer questions
- Clarify program expectations
- Offer hands-on support to strengthen your program operations
- Help you prepare for successful monitoring and compliance visits

Let's work together to review requirements, address questions, and set your program up for success.

Contact your regional Nutrition TA Coordinator today to schedule a visit (see below).

Nutrition TA Coordinator	Region	Email	Phone Number
Julie Edwards	East	Julie.Edwards@decal.ga.gov	(404) 796-1205
LaKisha Battle	Southeast	Lakisha.Battle@decal.ga.gov	(478) 314-2806
Leatha Bryant	Southwest	Leatha.Bryant@decal.ga.gov	(404) 998-0721
Rhonda Kelley	North/ Northwest	Rhonda.Kelley@decal.ga.gov	(470) 859-9376
Emilia Emmanuel	Metro West	Emilia.Emmanuel@decal.ga.gov	(678) 337-9759

Join the CACFP Association In Celebrating Provider Appreciation Month

Free Virtual Event: May 16, 2026

Join the CACFP Association for a free virtual event on Saturday, May 16, 2026, to celebrate Provider Appreciation Month.

Discover easy menu ideas, playful ways to turn everyday meals into opportunities for learning and movement, and helpful resources designed with providers in mind.

Take a little time for yourself, connect with fellow providers, and leave with simple ideas you can use right away.

Save Your Spot Today

Can't make it to the live sessions?

Your registration includes on-demand access through May 31, 2026.

How to File a CACFP Claim for Reimbursement

To receive reimbursement, institutions must submit monthly CACFP claims through the GA ATLAS system. Original claims must be submitted within 30 days after the end of the claiming month, with up to two revisions allowed within 60 days.

Before submitting, ensure all records are complete and accurate, including menus, attendance, enrollment, and Income Eligibility Statements (IES). All information must be reconciled to confirm that only eligible meals and participants are included.

For-profit centers must also meet the 25% eligibility requirement each month to qualify. Accurate reporting and timely submission help ensure compliance and prevent delays in reimbursement.

View the full instructions [here](#).

Specific Prior Written Approval (SPWA) Submission and Approval Process

Specific Prior Written Approval (SPWA) is a process sponsors use to get approval for certain purchases or costs not already included in their approved program budget. It ensures that program funds are spent appropriately, comply with federal and state regulations, and support the integrity of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

To submit a SPWA, follow these guidelines:

- Sponsors with an emergency request, must email the [SPWA request form](#) with supporting documentation to Gwendolyn.howard@decalf.ga.gov within 24 hours of purchase and then submit a budget revision to include the cost.
- For all other requests, sponsors must submit a budget revision to include the cost, upload the [SPWA request form](#) and supporting documents to the attachments list section in GA ATLAS, and notify the budget team via email at Nutritionbudget@decalf.ga.gov at least three days before making the purchase.
- DECAL will review the request and provide an approval or denial status in writing, including any special considerations or reasons. The SPWA will be signed and uploaded to the attachment list section in GA ATLAS.

If you have questions or concerns regarding SPWAs, contact Nutritionbudget@decalf.ga.gov.

USDA Final Rule Expands Milk Options

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has published a Final Rule titled [Expanding Fluid Milk Options in Child Nutrition Programs | Food and Nutrition Service](#), which includes updates that will impact the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The rule becomes effective June 8, 2026.

Through this rulemaking, USDA is updating program regulations to allow whole and reduced-fat milk to be offered to participants ages 2 and older in several Child Nutrition Programs, including CACFP.

Under the updated guidance:

- Children 1 year old must continue to be served unflavored whole milk.
- Children ages 2 through 5 years old may now be served unflavored whole, reduced-fat, low-fat, or fat-free milk.
- Children 6 years and older and adult participants may be served unflavored or flavored whole, reduced-fat, low-fat, or fat-free milk.

This change applies to CACFP as well as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Special Milk Program (SMP).

DECAL Nutrition Services is currently reviewing the Final Rule and evaluating updates that may be needed to policies, forms, handbooks, review tools, and additional program guidance. Please stay tuned for future announcements and implementation updates as more information becomes available.

Modifying the FNS Instruction 113-1: Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement

This USDA memorandum ensures that current USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) guidance pertaining to federal civil rights and nondiscrimination obligations remains aligned with applicable laws, regulations, executive orders, and directives relevant to the agency's 16 nutrition assistance programs.

In that vein, FNS is modifying the [FNS Instruction 113-1: Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement](#) — Nutrition Programs and Activities and developing a new guidance tool that will provide assistance and direction to FNS employees and recipients of federal financial assistance in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Amended guidance will be released when finalized.

In the interim, civil rights and nondiscrimination laws and regulations remain in effect, along with related compliance and enforcement requirements. FNS program offices and state agencies are advised to immediately discontinue citing FNS Instruction 113-1 when there are noncompliance issues or concerns resulting from management evaluations (MEs), compliance reviews or any similar monitoring and oversight activities, and to discontinue using FNS Instruction 113-1 for technical guidance. Rather, pertinent civil rights and nondiscrimination laws and regulations should be cited and used instead.

To access the guidance, click [here](#)

For questions or for additional information, contact Melissa Stanley, Policy Administrator, at Melissa.Stanley@decals.ga.gov.

Unanticipated School Closure Waivers

Waivers Available Through June 30

On July 30, 2025, Nutrition Services received USDA approval for statewide waivers for CACFP institutions to use during unanticipated school closures.

The waivers are available during unanticipated school closures when meal service operations are limited due to natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes, or when approved by the state agency for similar unanticipated causes.

The following approved waivers are available when schools are closed with no virtual learning/classes:

- Non-Congregate Meal Service
- Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-up
- Meal Service Times
- At-Risk Enrichment Activities

The waivers listed above are available through June 30, 2026.

For a CACFP facility to use the above-mentioned waivers, the facility:

- Must be approved to operate the CACFP (child care centers, adult day care centers, emergency shelters, day care homes, outside-school-hours care centers, and/or at-risk afterschool sites);
- Must be located in an area impacted by an unanticipated school closure resulting from natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes or when approved by DECAL for similar unanticipated causes; and
- Must limit the use of the waivers to no more than 10 consecutive days. In situations that may warrant a longer time period, Food Nutrition Service (FNS) approval will be required.

CACFP institutions interested in applying for these waivers during unanticipated school closures must submit waiver requests via the Waiver Module in GA ATLAS.

Note: To use the Home Delivery or Parent/Guardian Pick-up meal service models, CACFP organizations must complete and attach in the waiver module, the USDA Waiver Request Addendum, found [here](#).

Note: Home Delivery does not apply to day care homes.

For questions, contact Melissa.Stanley@decals.ga.gov or Tammie.Baldwin@decals.ga.gov.

Upcoming Training Dates:

May 18, 2026

Memo Monday: Best Practices For Delivering Nutritious Meals In Rural Settings
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Do you need a review of best practices for serving quality meals during rural non-congregate meal service?

This webinar will provide a review of the following DECAL memorandums:

- [Rural Non-Congregate Meal Services in the Summer Food Service Program, January 8, 2025](#)

- **Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas: Questions and Answers #3, January 10, 2025: Questions and Answers #3, January 10, 2025**

[\[Register Now\]](#)

May 28, 2026

PALS Session #5: Goal Setting and Action Planning

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Would you like to review your self-assessment, explore best practices, and identify areas for improvement in physical activity?

This session will help you develop action steps to meet your goals, and you will leave with a plan to improve physical activity practices.

Participants can earn one [1.0] state-approved hour for attending this training in its entirety.

[\[Register Now\]](#)

June 2, 2026

Tuesday Tip: Let's Hydrate

1:30 - 2:00 pm

Are you frequently thinking about fun ways to increase fluid intake?

Join this webinar to learn:

- creditable milks and juices,
- the importance and benefits of water consumption, and
- fun ways to increase water intake.

Participants can earn one-half [0.5] state-approved hour for attending this training in its entirety.

[\[Register Now\]](#)

June 2, 2026

Nutrition Education and Physical Activity Team Office Hour

2:00-3:00 pm

Drop in for a Q&A with DECAL's registered dietitian and nutrition education and physical activity specialists. These experts will be available immediately after Tuesday Tip: Let's Hydrate webinar on June 2, 2026.

Drop in to ask questions about local foods, gardening, physical activity ideas, and more.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join [here](#)

Meeting ID: 225 973 175 472 02

Passcode: cf3Xi93G

If you have any questions related to nutrition education or physical activity but aren't available during the office hours, reach out to Monica.Griffin@decal.ga.gov.

June 9, 2026

Building Better Menus: Nutrition Trends You Need to Know

6:00 - 7:00 pm

This training will provide an overview and discussion of current food and nutrition trends, including the new Dietary Guidelines, ultra-processed foods, and protein.

Participants will also learn practical, budget-friendly strategies for incorporating more whole foods into their CACFP and Happy Helpings menus.

Participants can earn one [1.0] state-approved hour for attending this training in its entirety.

[\[Register Now\]](#)

Notes:

Registering for training is a two-step process:

- **Step 1:** After registering in GAATLAS, you will receive a Training Confirmation email *immediately* from Georgia DECAL Help Desk - helpdesk@cnpus.com with a registration link to attend the webinar (**check your spam/junk folder**).
- **Step 2:** You must then register for the training using the link provided in the Training Confirmation email.
- If you have an issue with registering, contact [Leslie Truman](#) before the day of the training.
- [Click here](#) if you need a refresher on how to register for training in GA ATLAS.

NOTE: Only the Program Contact (PC) can self-register within GA ATLAS. If an additional person will be attending, contact [Leslie Truman](#), Administrative Assistant, at (404) 657-1779 for assistance.

In Case You Missed It:

Webinar Recordings Now Available

If you missed a webinar, visit the [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage for previously recorded webinars.

This month's training highlight is the [FY 2026 CACFP Renewal Readiness](#) webinar. It provided step-by-step instructions on how to complete annual renewal requirements for FY 2026.

Grant Opportunity for Georgia Pre-K Classrooms

Small Bites Adventure Club's Veggie Ready program is now accepting applications for summer and fall 2026.

Veggie Ready helps children 4-7 years old build the same confidence with food that they're gaining in reading, math, and social skills. Through fun, hands-on lessons, kids learn to discover, eat, and love fruits and vegetables.

You can learn more and [apply here](#).



Farm to Summer

Georgia's Bountiful Summer Harvest

Summer in Georgia is a time of agricultural abundance and bountiful harvests, making it the perfect season to connect children and families to fresh, locally grown foods.

Farm to Summer is an initiative that encourages child nutrition programs to feature local fruits, vegetables, and other foods at their peak freshness and flavor while engaging children in hands-on learning experiences that connect them to where their food comes from.

During the summer months, Georgia's farms are harvesting a variety of seasonal produce, including fruits such as peaches, blueberries, watermelon, cantaloupe, and strawberries, and vegetables like tomatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, squash and zucchini, bell peppers, okra, and eggplant.



Through activities such as gardening, cooking, taste testing, and agriculture-based learning, Farm to Summer helps improve the quality and appeal of summer meals while keeping children nourished, active, and engaged throughout the summer months. Farm to Summer also supports Georgia farmers and communities by strengthening local food systems and building healthy habits that can last a lifetime.

Register in GA [Atlas](#) or [GaPDS](#) to learn practical ways to incorporate Georgia-grown foods and Farm to Summer activities into your program.

Once you've built your knowledge, it'll be time to celebrate.

The following article will help you plan your Farm to Summer

Week celebration.

Save The Date: Farm to Summer Week

June 22 – 26, 2026



DECAL's Nutrition Services will celebrate Farm to Summer Week June 22-26, 2026. Farm to Summer engages kids and families through fun, hands-on experiential learning activities, improves the quality and appeal of summer meals, and increases access to fresh fruits, vegetables, & nourishment during the summer months.

The themes for the week are:

- Monday – What is Farm to Summer?
- Tuesday – Gardening & Physical Activity
- Wednesday – Cooking & Taste Testing
- Thursday – Locally Grown in Meals & Snacks
- Friday – Literacy, Music & Movement

Stay tuned to Nutrition Services' Farm to Summer Week webpage for materials and resources to use in your celebration.

Physical Activity Corner

Physical Activity is for Everybody

Physical activity is about movement, joy, and connection—at every age and ability level.

Physical activity can be adapted to meet the needs of young children, school-age youth, adults, and older adults in CACFP settings.

Here are some resources to help you get started:

- **Moving Together Blaze TOTS Video Series** supports inclusive physical activity in early childhood settings.
- **Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Fun with Friends** video provides tips to help school-age children with and without disabilities play together.
- The National Institute on Aging's **Discover Inclusive Active Aging Guide** and **Video Series** provides tips and ideas for older adults.



Through CACFP, you are creating environments that promote:

- Nutritious meals and snacks
- Daily physical activity

Let's *Move It* this May. Whether big or small, every movement counts for children, adults, and ECE providers.

We'd love to feature your CACFP program in our next newsletter or on social media. Share your stories and pictures with Physical Activity Specialist, Tina McLaren at tina.mclaren@decalfga.gov.

Follow DECAL on Pinterest

Do you need ideas to incorporate nutrition education and physical activity at your site?

To check out DECAL's Pinterest for CACFP, Happy Helpings & Harvest of the Month recipes, physical activity ideas, healthy holiday celebrations, and more click [here](#).

Nutrition and Physical Activity pins are saved and added weekly.

Submit questions or suggestions to morgan.chapman@decalfga.gov or tina.mclaren@decalfga.gov.



Eat Healthy and Live Active

Georgia Early Care and Education Harvest of the Month 2025-2026 Calendar

The Georgia Early Care and Education Harvest of the Month is a collaborative campaign sponsored by Quality Care for Children, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Georgia Department of Human Services, and Georgia Organics. The campaign encourages healthy eating habits by promoting a different local, seasonal fruit or vegetable each month.

Visit [EatLearnGrowGA](#) to access classroom activities aligned with the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS), recipes, book lists, family newsletters, and more to help you incorporate a new vegetable or fruit each month in the classroom, kitchen, and home.

For school-age children resources, visit the Georgia Department of Education's Harvest of the Month [webpage](#).

CACFP Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

- [CACFP Participation Map](#)
- [CACFP Crediting Handbook Revised](#)
- [Updated Income Eligibility Guidelines Released](#)
- [FNS Developing A New Guidance Tool](#)
- [CACFP Area Eligibility Interactive Map Updated for FY26](#)
- [Recordkeeping Requirements in the CACFP](#)
- [Revised Product Formulation Statement \(PFS\) Templates and Samples](#)
- [Waivers Available during Unanticipated School Closures](#)
- [FNS Issues Guidance on Using Federal Funds to Purchase Local Foods](#)
- [At-Risk Afterschool Waivers Available during Unanticipated School Closures](#)
- [Requirement to Accept Medical Statements from Registered Dietitians for Schools and Child and Adult Care Institutions and Facilities](#)
- [Reimbursement Rates for CACFP Providers](#)
- [How to File a CACFP Claim for Reimbursement](#)

You can find archived CACFP Newsletters [here](#).

Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENTS
May	Harvest of the Month: Legumes
May 16	National CACFP Association Celebrates Provider Appreciation Month - Virtual
May 18	Memo Monday: Best practices for delivering nutritious meals in rural settings - Webinar
May 25	Holiday: Memorial Day
May 28	PALS Session #5: Goal Setting and Action Planning - Webinar
June 2	Tuesday Tip: Let's Hydrate - Webinar
June 2	Nutrition Education and Physical Activity Team Office Hour - Webinar
June 9	Building Better Menus: Nutrition Trends You Need to Know - Webinar
June 19	Holiday: Juneteenth
June 22 - 26	Farm to Summer Week
June 30	Unanticipated School Closure Waivers Available through June 30, 2026
August 28	CACFP Summit- In Person

DECAL Download

Small Wonders

On the next ...
DECAL Download
New Episodes Every Wednesday!

Got a question for a pediatrician?
Post below and we might use on a future episode of Small Wonders on DECAL Download.

Dr. Nicola Chin
President of Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Small Wonders logo and Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning logo.

This week we're introducing a new feature on DECAL Download called Small Wonders. Partnering with the American Academy of Pediatrics, Small Wonders will bring you trusted expert advice on raising young children from birth to age five.

Joining us for this first installment of Small Wonders is Dr. Nicola Chin, a pediatrician here in metro

Atlanta. Dr. Chin is a native of Jamaica, West Indies. She attended Massachusetts Institute of

Technology for her undergraduate studies and received her medical degree at Temple University School of Medicine. She has practiced for the last twenty years in the Atlanta area and currently works with Morehouse Medicine at East Point/ Morehouse School of Medicine.

Listen to the episode [here](#).

How was my customer service?

Provide feedback on your experience with the Nutrition Team



Click on the icon on the right to participate in the customer service survey. Responses are anonymous.



Nutrition Services Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter
Joann Kilpatrick

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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