

# School Nutrition Update

November 23, 2020



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## Program Operations Information

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### ***Review Updates to #StrongSchoolsNC Resources***

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) recently made a number of updates to the #StrongSchoolsNC resources. Please review and note the following changes:

#### **#StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12)**

- Streamlined the daily symptom screening checklists (pages 15-18)
- Revised alternate diagnosis language to allow someone excluded from school to return (pages 9 and 21)
- Clarified language regarding PCR testing - now reads “PCR/molecular test” (throughout)
- Gloves are not required for people conducting symptom screenings (page 8)
- Aligned high-risk status categories to current CDC recommendations (page 6)
- Added consideration for protective layering if sustaining contact with unmasked persons (page 6)

#### **Reference Guide for Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 (K-12)**

- Created new “Return from Exclusion Summary Tool” (page 8)
- Added daily symptom screening checklists for reference (pages 4-7)
- Clarified language regarding PCR testing; now reads “PCR/molecular” (throughout)

#### **#StrongSchoolsNC Infection Control and PPE Guidance (K-12)**

- Added broader recommendations for how to use common infection control items (pages 1-3)
- Revised Starter Pack and Booster Pack descriptions to reflect past-tense (pages 3-5)

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#### **Considerations For COVID-19 Testing of Adults and Children Who Work at or Attend a K-12 School**

- Linked to new antigen testing flow chart (Page 1)

#### **What Are We Learning About COVID-19 and Children?**

- Updated broken links

#### **#StrongSchoolsNC FAQ**

- Added new questions relating to immunizations and mask exceptions
- Updated broken links

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### ***Prepare for Holiday Breaks***

As the holidays approach, your School Nutrition Program may have alterations in meal service. Please ensure that you communicate any changes in meal service to families. If you will have a break in service, please collaborate with community partners to provide meals to ensure no child goes hungry.

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### ***Submit Meal Counts Daily***

North Carolina remains in a state of emergency related to COVID-19. As such, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) must report daily meal counts to the N.C. Emergency Operations Center. Please use the survey [link](#) to submit meal count data daily by 6 pm. If you have questions or issues submitting the data, please reach out to [Janet Johnson](#).

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### ***Plan for Health Department Inspections***

COVID-19 may potentially impact the capacity of local health departments to perform regular inspections of facilities. If your health department is not able to complete the required number of inspections, please ensure that you have documentation in writing for Administrative Review purposes. The documentation may be an email from your local health department referencing their inability to perform the required number of health inspections. If you have questions, please reach out to your [Zone teams](#).

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## **Summer Nutrition**

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### ***Be Aware of New ADP Adjustment Procedures***

There are new Average Daily Participation (ADP) Adjustment procedures for Summer Nutrition Programs. Programs should access the ADP weekly and adjust the ADP in site applications as needed. ADP upward adjustments will not be approved for the November 2020 claim after 5:00 PM on the State Agency last business day. If you have questions, please reach out to your [Summer Nutrition Program Consultant](#).

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### ***Utilize the 2020-21 SFSP Application Guide***

The new Application Guide is now available in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS) Download Forms. Please use this guide starting November 30 to complete your application packet to ensure you are meeting all the requirements for the program through June 2021. Please note this guide does not need to be uploaded with your application. Applications may not be extended past June 30, 2021. Remember the POS should represent a location where meals are served and/or eaten in a supervised setting, i.e., each classroom, curbside, bus stop, etc. The site applications now accept up to three digits. Describe exceptions, holidays, closures and any other service changes by meal type. Projected training dates are required for the FY 2020-21. More details are to come regarding training.

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## **School Nutrition Spotlight**

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## ***School Nutrition Perspectives from Teachers of the Year***

The 2020 North Carolina Teachers of the Year (NCTOY) Team is partnering with No Kid Hungry NC to share their perspectives on School Nutrition Programs that keep students healthy and ready to learn. 2020 NC Teacher of the Year Maureen Stover (Cumberland County Schools) recorded a video to introduce the partnership, which includes the eight regional Teacher of the Year finalists from across the state and explains why teachers are invested in the success of School Nutrition Programs. Watch the video [here](#) and read more NCTOY stories about the impact of School Nutrition.

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## ***Submit a School Nutrition Spotlight***

We love lifting up our #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes! If you know of a North Carolina School Nutrition professional that has received an award, honor or other recognition, please share for an upcoming School Nutrition Spotlight. Please send details to Tracey Bates, [tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov).

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## **Farm to School**

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### ***Promote 2020-21 N.C. Jr. Chef Competition***

We are excited to announce the 2020-21 N.C. Jr. Chef Competition (NCJCC) will be virtual. The NCJCC challenges teams of 2-4 high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) students enrolled in Culinary Arts and Hospitality, Food and Nutrition, or Food Science and Technology courses to work with their Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher and local School Nutrition Program to create a recipe for a school lunch entrée that features at least two North Carolina grown ingredients and one USDA Foods item, adheres to federal nutrition guidelines and meets student taste preferences. Intent to compete forms are due 12/18 and submission forms with application and recipe, recipe photo, time management plan and permission forms are due 2/1. Learn more [here](#). Please share competition info with prospective teams.



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### ***Utilize Free North Carolina Resources for Sweetpotato Awareness Month***

November is Sweetpotato Awareness Month. The N.C. Sweetpotato Commission collaborated with N.C. Ag in the Classroom and Family and Consumer Science teachers on a series of K-12 lesson plans, which all feature North Carolina sweetpotatoes. The free lesson plans can be downloaded from the N.C. Sweetpotato Commission [website](#). In addition, the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDACS) has a free *From Farm to School – Crops of North Carolina: Digging for Sweetpotatoes* storybook and activity guide available on the N.C. Farm to School Program [website](#). In addition, there is a free, downloadable *Year in the Life of a N.C. Sweetpotato* [poster](#). And don't forget the sweetpotato fact sheet available from the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#). Please share these resources with your teachers and students.



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## Continuing Education

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### ***Join Using Greenhouses into Your School Garden Webinar - 12/2, 2 pm ET***

This webinar is an introduction for educators who are exploring ways to incorporate a greenhouse as a hands-on learning environment and/or tool to extend their growing. It will offer information and resources for establishing a new project or further activating an existing greenhouse. The presentation will highlight the Greenhouse Manual created by the U.S. Botanic Garden. Youth Mighty Greens staff members will also share their expertise and experiences growing and running their business in greenhouses. Register [here](#).

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### ***Register for ICN Food Safety e-Learning Courses***

The Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) offers e-Learning Courses – Introduction to HACCP for SNPs, Food Safety in Schools, Food Safety in Summer Nutrition Programs, Best Practices in SFSP – Cleaning and Sanitizing, Best Practices in SFSP – Time and Temperature Control, and Best Practices in SFSP – Personal Hygiene. In addition, there is a course on Food Allergies. Learn more and register [here](#).

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### ***Access Virtual Training Opportunities***

The Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) has compiled [resources to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus](#). Online food safety/HACCP training is available on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#) and the ICN [website](#). Additional continuing education resources are available on the School Nutrition [website](#) from NCDPI, ICN, the School Nutrition Association and other agencies and organizations. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers [COVID-19 professional resources](#) for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDNs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs), and [continuing professional education resources](#).

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## Questions

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If you have any questions regarding these updates, please reach out to your regional consultants. Contact information for your Zone teams can be found [here](#).

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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