

School Nutrition Update

July 27, 2020



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Program Operations Information

Waiver Requests Submitted to USDA

On July 8, 2020, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), School Nutrition Services submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the following waivers to be extended through August 2021: Area Eligibility, Unanticipated School Closure-SFSP Continuation Non-Congregate Meal Service, Parent/Guardian Meal Pick up and Meal Time Restrictions. NCDPI will keep School Food Authorities (SFAs) and Non-SFA Sponsors posted regarding the waiver extension requests.

Opening Public Schools Guidance Updated

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) has updated the #StrongSchoolsNC K-12 Public Health Toolkit for modified Plan B with guidance for social distancing, face coverings, cleaning and more. In addition, there is a Reference Guide for Suspected, Presumptive and Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 along with Infection Control and PPE Guidance. Please review and utilize the NCDHHS [Guidance](#).



Q & A on School Opening from NCDPI, School Nutrition

The Q & A from NCDPI, School Nutrition COVID-19 Response Office Hours and Webinars have been updated and are in the Downloads section of the School Nutrition Technology Systems (SNTS). If you have additional questions not addressed in the Q & A, please reach out to your regional consultants.

SY 20-21 Federal School Meals' Reimbursement Rates

On July 22, USDA issued reimbursement rates for the 2020-21 school year for the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Special Milk Program and the Afterschool Snack Program. The chart of reimbursement rates is posted on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#).

HACCP Plan Updates

The Commercial and Homestyle Kitchens, Transported Meals and Warehouse HACCP Plans and monitoring logs are updated and posted in the HACCP/Food Safety section of the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#).

Steps to Take if a Break in Meal Service May Occur

If your Summer Nutrition Program meal service may take a break or cease, immediately email Dr. Lynn Harvey, Lynn.Harvey@dpi.nc.gov. NCDPI must notify the N.C. Emergency Operations Center of any break or discontinuation of meal service. In addition, per protocol, reach out to your local Emergency Management. Together brainstorm and reach out to community partners to identify strategies to continue meal service. Also, work with vendors to explore alternative menu items/quantities for meal service.

Submit Your Data Daily

Please submit your daily counts for sites and meals by 3 pm via the [Non-Congregate Meal Service - Data Collection survey](#). The link to the survey is also available on the home page of the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#). If you encounter issues with submitting this data by the deadline, please contact Janet Johnson, janet.williamsjohnson@dpi.nc.gov.

Summer Nutrition

Extension of Agreement Addendum to Operate Summer Food Service Program

The Addendum to the Summer Food Service Program Agreement to Operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) During Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) School Closures previously entered into among NCDPI, the State Board of Education and School Food Authorities (SFAs) and Non-SFA Sponsors expired on June 30, 2020. Since the signing of the original Addendum, USDA extended waivers related to the impact of COVID-19 on Child Nutrition Programs. These waivers continue flexibilities in operating the Summer Nutrition Programs through August 31, 2020. The recent NCDPI, School Nutrition email regarding these waivers represents approval of the Addendum extension.

Milk Waivers

Current Milk Waivers expire August 31, 2020. An online form to reapply is forthcoming. Waiver requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Approval will be limited to rare instances of food safety issues or supply chain disruption and issued with an end date. Sponsors must continue to seek alternative sources for milk and safe distribution methods, track the number of meals served not meeting the meal pattern and document all milk substitutions and efforts to procure/safely provide milk. If the waiver is no longer needed, sponsors must notify NCDPI. Direct questions to Jennifer Bailey, jennifer.bailey@dpi.nc.gov.

Technical Assistance Time Outs

NCDPI, School Nutrition will be offering a series of Technical Assistance Time Outs. These short, recorded webinars will provide clarification, reminders, and best practices to help your Summer Food Service Program operate safely, effectively, and in compliance. The first in the series discusses COVID-19 Meal Service Safety and ways that you can ensure you are protecting your staff and the families and children you serve. Links to the webinars will be emailed and posted in the School Nutrition Technology System.

Farm to School/Summer

N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge

If you have been serving locally sourced foods with meals and snacks, offering farm to school education and posting about your activities on social media, please sign up for the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge so that we can celebrate your efforts. It's not too late to participate. The N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge runs through August 14. [Register](#) and complete all four tasks (Serve, Teach, Post and [Sign up for the #NCCrunch2020](#)). Challengers who complete all four tasks will be recognized at the 2020 SummerPaloozas! For more information on Farm to Summer and resources, check out the [N.C. Farm to Summer Toolkit](#). Please contact McCamy Holloway at mccamy.holloway@dpi.nc.gov with any questions or comments.

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Connect and Promote through Social Media

We would love to highlight your efforts to provide nutritious meals and nutrition education to children. Remember to tag and follow us on social media (#NCSummerMeals, @Ray4NCKids, and @NCSchoolMeals) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

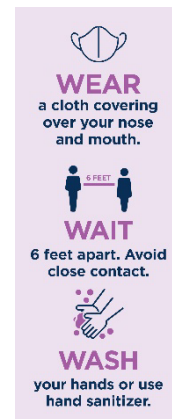
Handwashing Posters

The Institute for Child Nutrition has created handwashing posters for meal preparation and service areas. School Nutrition Programs can [download](#), print and post these free posters.



Resources for the 3 W's: Wear, Wait and Wash

Programs that serve children and teens can take important steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. NCDHHS has issued interim [guidance for day camps and programs serving children and teens](#) and for [overnight camps](#). Utilizing NCDHHS guidance, training should be provided to all staff. Instructions should be communicated to children as well as families regarding expectations for safe practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19. NCDHHS has free resources to help with education regarding social distancing best practices, the [3 W's: Wear, Wait and Wash](#). In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has [resources](#) to assist in communicating with children regarding the Coronavirus.



Continuing Education

COVID-19 Webinar Series 2 – Managing Personnel During COVID-19

This webinar from the USDA Office of Food Safety and the Institute for Child Nutrition will address communication among stakeholders, adhering to the Americans with Disabilities Act, selecting and handling of cloth face masks, considerations for appropriate screening and exclusion of food service employees from working, and preparing for potential employee illness. The webinar will reflect CDC COVID-19 recommendations and guidelines. [Register](#) for the webinar scheduled for July 27, 2-3 pm ET.

Training Series – Racial Equity in Farm to School

The Farm to School Coalition of NC and We Are together are hosting a free training series on Racial Equity in Farm to School. The series webinars are scheduled for 3-4:30 pm ET on July 28, August 11, August 18 and September 1. Find out more and register from the [F2SCNC website](#).

S.T.A.R. Webinar - Maintaining Customer Service While Serving at a Distance

This Institute for Child Nutrition webinar will share strategies to help School Nutrition teams stay motivated and maintain excellent customer service while navigating the current parameters for program operations. Hear from professionals in the field who maintained high-quality customer service during the 2019-2020 school closures, and the best practices and key information they are including in their back to school plans. [Learn more and register](#) for the webinar scheduled for July 30, 3-4 pm ET.

Webinars - Working Together to Serve Diverse Communities

Day One: Meeting the Needs of Individuals, Families, and Communities - August 5 (10-4 pm Central Time)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Justice Community Relations Service, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Health and Human Services will share information concerning housing, community healing, nutrition and food stability, childcare, child development, family assistance programs, and healthcare for older Americans, people with disabilities, and individuals suffering or at risk of addictive or mental disorders.

Join the Webinar: <https://ftc.webex.com/ftc/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb2a6bfe04740585db3e4630be971b5a9>
Join Audio Conference Only: Call +1-510-210-8882 and Enter Access Code 199 456 2878

Day Two: Addressing Economic and Financial Interests - August 6 (10-4 pm Central Time)

The U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Small Business Administration, Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas will share resources addressing economic and financial interests, including employment, entrepreneurship, fraud prevention, investing, and banking.

Join the Webinar: <https://ftc.webex.com/ftc/onstage/g.php?MTID=e78c611fc7f6ddfc7c34b42a7d4e48b47>

Join the Audio Conference Only: Call +1-510-210-8882 and Enter Access Code: 199 191 9244

Webinars – Produce Safety University

As a supplement to the 2020 Produce Safety University program, the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service Office of Food Safety, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and Chef Cyndie Story, PhD, RDN, CC, of Culinary Solutions, LLC have developed a four-part webinar series for School Nutrition professionals addressing the most popular Produce Safety University topics. Each webinar is an individual learning opportunity with separate registration for each. All webinars begin at 2 pm CST every Tuesday in August.

- [Register](#) for **How to Use AMS Market News Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information in School Meal Programs** - August 4
- [Register](#) for **Writing Produce Specifications** - August 11
- [Register](#) for **Good Agricultural and Good Manufacturing/Handling Practices for Fresh and Fresh Cut Produce** - August 18
- [Register](#) for **The Produce Lab: Quality, Condition, and Safe Handling and Preparation** - August 25

Available Virtual Training Opportunities from ICN, SNA and NCDPI

The Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) has compiled videos, fact sheets, posters and other [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](#). Document all continuing education in which your staff participates.

Job Opportunities

Director of Food Services – Duplin County Schools

Duplin County Schools is accepting applications for a Director of Food Services. All interested applicants must apply [online](#). The position is open until filled. Please contact the Human Resources Department at 910-296-6626 if you have questions completing the application.

Grants

A variety of grants are available to assist with COVID-19 response. See below for more info:

- [Action for Healthy Kids – Emergency Meal Distribution Equipment Grants](#)
- [Assistance for Church Food Programming Affected by COVID-19](#) (Please reach out to Michelle Osborne at michelle@rafiusa.org or 919-704-6920 with any questions.)
- [Farm to School COVID-19 Related Funding](#)
- [Grant Station List of COVID-19 Related Funding for Nonprofits](#)
- The Dairy Alliance Mini-Grants - Interested School Nutrition directors should contact Health and Wellness Program Manager Cami Lewis at clewis@thedairyalliance.org or 678-822-2868.

Questions

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](#). Contact information for the Summer Nutrition Program Regional Consultants can be found [here](#).

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (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.

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