

School Nutrition Update

June 10, 2020



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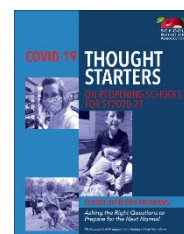
Program Operations Information

Steps to Take if a Break in Meal Service May Occur

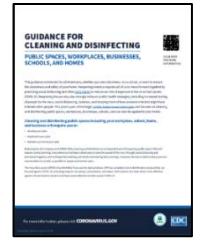
If your Summer Nutrition Program meal service may take a break or cease, immediately email Dr. Lynn Harvey, Lynn.Harvey@dpi.nc.gov. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) must notify the NC Emergency Operations Center of any break or discontinuation of meal service. In addition, per protocol, contact your local Emergency Management leadership. Together brainstorm and reach out to community partners to identify strategies to continue meal service for children. Consider working with local restaurants, caterers or other food service operations that have submitted proposals via the *NC Restaurants Feeding Kids* initiative. Utilize the available press release template to recruit additional restaurants, caterers and other foodservice operations in your area to submit proposals. The database of proposals and the press release template are available in the Download Forms section of the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS). If you are encountering issues with purchasing food, supplies and equipment needed to sustain meal service, consult the database of Suppliers Supporting School and Summer Nutrition Programs, available in the Download Forms section of the SNTS. Also, work with vendors to explore alternative menu items/quantities for meal service.

Creating Plans for Reopening Schools

Superintendent Mark Johnson has announced the creation of the Schools Reopening Task Force (SRTF). This task force seeks to put North Carolina public education back on the proactive path to address the challenges of post-COVID-19 education. As discussions occur locally regarding the reopening of schools, please provide input to your Superintendent, Board of Education and other policy makers regarding the safety, sustainability and regulatory requirements of School Nutrition Programs. Envision what the re-opening of schools will look like for School Nutrition Programs. How will social distancing be addressed with meal distribution? Will meal distribution occur in classrooms, in hallways at kiosks, in cafeterias or through other venues? If students will attend school in shifts or only on scheduled days, how will meal distribution be handled? What will needs be for food, supplies, equipment, cleaning/disinfecting products, staffing, etc.? How will meal counting be handled? The School Nutrition Association has created the [COVID-19 Thought Starters on Reopening Schools for SY 2020-21](#), which may help you address operational and administrative issues regarding the reopening of schools.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued "[Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)". In addition, CDC has created a [decision tree](#) to help schools make decisions about reopening and offered interim guidance about [ongoing mitigation strategies](#). Links to additional resources are provided within the guidance. Please review this guidance and use it as a reference for planning.



Guidelines for Health and Safety

Routine guidance has been shared during weekly webinars with School Food Authorities (SFAs) and Non-SFA Sponsors for food safety and social distancing during COVID-19 response. During the webinars with SFAs and Non-SFA Sponsors, the "[Guidelines for Ensuring Health and Safety for School Nutrition Staff and Children and Families Receiving School Nutrition Services](#)," developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), were reviewed to address personal hygiene, food safety, and social distancing during meal preparation and distribution. This guidance incorporates best practices from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NCDHHS, NCDPI and the N.C. State Board of Education as well as the Governor's Executive Orders. Please review the guidelines carefully and share these best practices with your staff.

Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment Waiver

The USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has issued a nationwide waiver to support Local Education Agencies (LEAs) unable to complete a triennial assessment of Local Wellness Policies by June 30, 2020, due to COVID-19 school closures. USDA FNS recognizes that in light of the current public health emergency providing a revised deadline for completion of this assessment requirement allows LEAs to focus on providing meals safely to children. School Food Authorities (SFAs) are strongly encouraged to consult with local stakeholders including the Local Wellness Policy Official, School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), Local Education Agency (LEA) Administration, the Local Board of Education, and other stakeholders to determine the need for a due date extension. SFAs/LEAs that are prepared to complete the triennial assessment by June 30, 2020 are encouraged by USDA FNS to complete their assessments on time. SFAs/LEAs that opt to accept a new deadline of June 30, 2021 must inform the State Agency by June 30, 2020. Please respond to the [Triennial Assessment Waiver Survey](#) to inform NCDPI whether your LEA will/will not elect the new triennial assessment deadline.

Data Due Daily

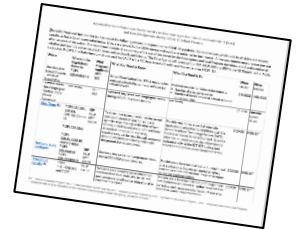
Please submit your daily counts for sites and meals by 3 pm. The link to the [survey](#) is available on the home page of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), School Nutrition website. If you encounter issues with submitting this data by the deadlines, please contact Janet Johnson, janet.williamsjohnson@dpi.nc.gov.

Food Shortages

Notify NCDPI, School Nutrition of any food shortages or other food supply chain issues your School Food Authority (SFA) or Non-SFA Sponsor encounters. Please share specific details regarding these issues through the food shortage [survey](#) available from the homepage of the NCDPI, School Nutrition website. Information regarding the nature of any food shortages will assist NCDPI in addressing issues with the food supply chain and in applying for an extension of the Meal Pattern Waiver from USDA.

COVID-19 Waivers

NCDPI has requested from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) an extension of waivers for Area Eligibility and Unanticipated School Closure – Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Continuation. Information on all the waivers issued nationally and by state is available on the USDA [website](#). In addition, waiver information applicable to North Carolina is available on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#).



Summer Nutrition

EcoSure

NCDPI contracts with a third-party inspector, EcoSure, to conduct required on-site health (food safety) inspections since local Departments of Health do not have the resources to perform the increased number of inspections during the summer months. Guidance regarding these inspections was sent to Superintendents and School Nutrition administrators that includes the COVID-19 health and safety protocols the EcoSure inspectors will implement when they arrive on school campuses or at other meal sites. Upon review of the protocol, if you have questions, please reach out to your [Summer Nutrition Program Consultant](#). These staff members can help you better understand how to prepare for and what to expect during a Summer Nutrition Program health inspection.

2020 RACE Live Workshops

NCDPI will offer two upcoming RACE Live Workshops – Part 1 on June 9 and Part 2 on June 11. The RACE Live Workshops are recommended for sponsors on the 2020 Administrative Review schedule and highly encouraged for new sponsors participating in Summer Nutrition Programs. Please register and plan to participate in these webinars. Links to register are below. Webinars will be available as recordings immediately following the live sessions.

Part 1, Tuesday, June 9 | 10:00am – 11:00am

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7087733834794161163>

Part 2, Thursday, June 11 | 10:00am – 12:00pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7155843082576799499>

Frontline Staff Training

Training must be conducted for frontline staff. One staff member with a Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) Certification from an American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited program must be on site at every meal preparation location. If your sponsor works with a restaurant or other food service operation as a vendor to prepare meals, you must ensure that the vendor has a CPFM on site during food preparation for your meal sites. As training is conducted, the Governor's Executive Order must be followed limiting the size of gatherings. Utilize online training available from NCDPI, the Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) and the School Nutrition Association (SNA). Training resources are available on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#). When conducting training, please keep in mind that there must be some means of documenting attendance. Documentation of training completion must be uploaded in the checklist summary at the training agenda paperclip for your sponsor application.

Nutrition Education & Program Promotion

Growing Minds Day by Day

The Growing Minds team from ASAP has created a compilation of resources for use by parents, caregivers and educators - Growing Minds Day by Day. Each week, the Growing Minds team will select a theme related to food, gardens, or nature, and share thematic recommendations for children's literature, activities, recipes, and online resources. Check out the Day by Day resources in the stories section of the Growing Minds [website](#).

North Carolina 4-H Resources

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension 4-H Program has offered daily SPARK activities during school closures. Videos of the SPARK activities are archived on the N.C. 4-H YouTube channel, <https://bit.ly/northcarolina4>. New videos are added weekly. Join N.C. 4-H for a new virtual summer program series starting in June and running through the summer! Read more at: <https://nc4h.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/05/696612/>.

Continuing Education

Available Training Opportunities

The Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) has compiled videos, fact sheets, posters and other resources to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Find these resources [here](#). Online food safety/HACCP training is available on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#) and the Institute for Child Nutrition (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. Your local County Extension office may serve as a resource to assist with food safety training. Find contact info for your local Family and Consumer Sciences Extension agent [here](#). Track and document all continuing education in which your staff participates.

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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- (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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