



Summer Food Service Program



Child Nutrition Programs
Finance and Support Services
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Program Bulletin

To: SFSP Sponsors
Program Reviewers

Date: May 15, 2020

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Bulletin: 2020-4

Subject: SFSP Waivers and Guidance

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FNS SFSP Policy Memos

Please visit the USDA FNS website to see the latest SFSP Policy Memos located here:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources?f%5B0%5D=program%3A28>

Waivers Available for the 'regular' 2020 SFSP (as of 5/15/20):

In addition to the waivers that are available for download from the CNPWeb, there are a few other waivers that are available to sponsors for the 'regular' SFSP season. As of 5/12/20, these COVID-19 specific waivers are only effective through 5/31/20 and 6/30/20. Sponsors will be notified if USDA issues a date extension for any of these waivers.

- **Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children**
 - *Request from State Agency.* Effective through 6/30/20. This waiver allows for parents/guardians to pick up SFSP provided meals in a non-congregate setting. Sponsors must have a plan to maintain accountability and program integrity to ensure that meals are distributed only to parents or guardians of eligible children, and that duplicate meals are not distributed to any child
- **Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver**
 - *Request from State Agency.* Effective through 5/31/20. This waives the requirement to meet meal pattern requirements. It is expected and strongly encouraged that program operators maintain and meet the nutrition standards for the SFSP to the greatest extent possible. The State Agency will consider requests that are targeted and justified

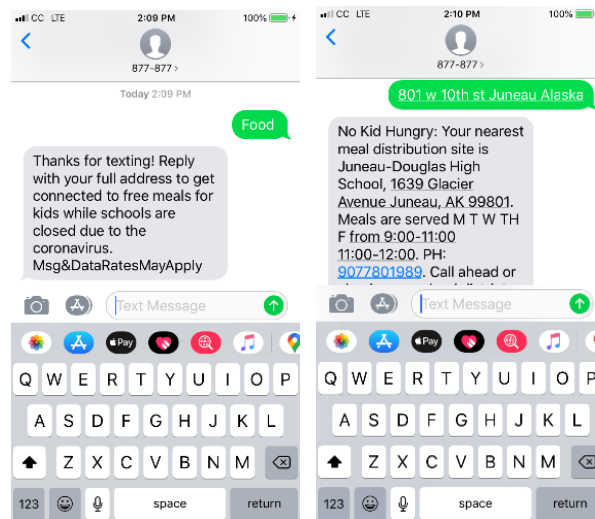
based upon disruptions to the availability of food products resulting from unprecedented impacts of COVID-19.

- **Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver**
 - *Request from State Agency.* Effective through 6/30/20. This waiver allows for non-congregate feeding during the current COVID-10 pandemic. Under this waiver, a meal delivery is also an option. Parents must opt-in through an application process. Sponsors must provide a description of processes in place to ensure that meals are delivered only to households where parents have opted in for meal delivery.
- **Sponsor Monitoring Waiver**
 - *Request from State Agency.* Effective through 6/30/20. This waiver allows for sponsors to perform off-site monitoring visits through a remote option. This includes the Pre-Operational, 1st week and 4th week monitoring site visits. Sponsors will need to explain their offsite method of monitoring.

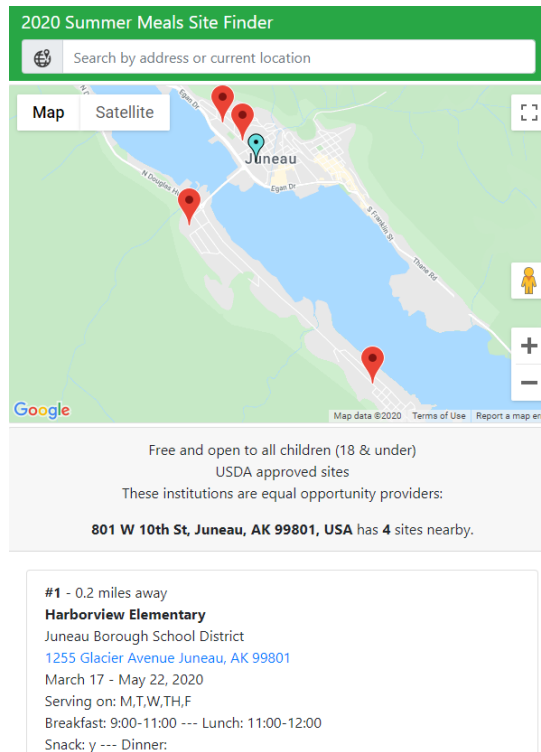
Summer Meals Site Finders

There are a couple of handy summer meal site finder resources out there. They are listed below. Note that right now these resources display sites that are serving meals as a result of the unanticipated school closures due to COVID-19. Once school is out (i.e. no longer delivering distance learning) and summer is in session, the site finders will display open, summer food sites. Share these resources with your community!

- **No Kid Hungry / Share Our Strength texting service:** to locate a summer food service program meal site near you, text “food” to 877-877. You will receive a text back asking for an address and as soon as you send that you will receive another reply that lists all of the SFSP sites near you! Screen prints are below of what the texting procedure looks like, and here is a link to the No Kid Hungry summer meals webpage which has lots of information and additional resources: <https://www.nokidhungry.org/what-we-do/summer-lunch-program>



- **Summer Food Rocks website:** www.summerfoodrocks.org: This website will display SFSP meal sites near the address you enter in the 2020 Summer Meals Site Finder location box. Below is a snapshot of what the website looks like showing indicators of the SFSP meal sites close to the address that was entered in the location box:



State of Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandate 016

The Governor's Health Mandate 016 includes a phased plan to reopen Alaska responsibly. Phase I was implemented 4/24 and the Phase II implementation date was 5/8/20. Here is a link to the key components of the plan: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Phased-Reopen-Doc.pdf>. All sponsors are encouraged to review mandate 016: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/reopen/>, and to implement protective measures as applicable.

Food Safety Practices

Due to the nature of COVID-19, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Food Safety and Sanitation Program strongly encourages the following to protect employees and customers, and ensure consumer confidence:

- **Increase cleaning and sanitizing of all high touch points.** Do this frequently and make it visible to customers.
 - ✓ Disinfect all high touch points, including door handles, payment systems and touch screens, shared pens, and utensils (including those for employees only and those available to customers).
 - ✓ If surfaces are visibly dirty, clean the surface to remove any soil prior to disinfecting to make sure that your sanitizer can do its job.
 - ✓ At a minimum, cleaning and sanitizing should be done **every ½ hour**, and more frequently based on the volume of customers.
- **Place hand sanitizer stations and wipes throughout facility.**
 - ✓ Provide hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes for consumers to wipe down keypads and other high touch areas at checkout.
- **Keep customers adequately spaced.** In areas of high-volume traffic, utilize spacing tools for checks and lines – tape on the floor is an inexpensive tool.

- **Keep high-risk shoppers safe.** Make adjustments or other efforts to address seniors and other high-risk shoppers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>
- **Ask customers who bring in reusable bags to bag their own items.**
- **If you utilize scannable loyalty cards, ask shoppers to hold their card while the market employee scans the card (rather than the employee handling the card).**

If you would like more detailed and thorough guidance, visit the below websites:

- [Coronavirus and Pandemic Preparedness for Food Industry](#) (FMI)
- [Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) (FDA)
- [Preventing the Spread of COVID-19: Guidance for Food Establishments](#) (DEC)

Other SFSP Information

Annual SFSP Training

The annual SFSP training for sponsors has already been provided by the State Agency. An all day, in-person training for all sponsors was held on February 27 in Anchorage, and then there were two distance trainings: one for all sponsors on April 21, and one for School Food Authorities only on April 16. Certificates to all participants have been issued. Please maintain a copy in your SFSP files to document the annual State Agency training requirement.

Just a reminder, sponsors who only attended the distance-delivered State Agency trainings are also required to complete the USDA Civil Rights Requirements and Child Nutrition Programs eLearning course.

- DEED eLearning webpage: <https://education.alaska.gov/elearning>

If sponsors were not available to attend the distance State Agency training, they must take the SFSP and Civil Rights eLearning courses available on the DEED website (see above link). You will need to request a new account if you don't have one already. Registering for an account is free.

The SFSP training courses are:

Required

- Summer Food Program's Administration Basics
- Summer Food Program's Meal Pattern Basics
- USDA Civil Rights Requirements and Child Nutrition Programs

Recommended

- Procurement Training – Procurement Plans
- Procurement Training – Informal
- Procurement Training – Food Service Management Companies (FSMC)

The Procurement courses are not required, but highly recommended. Sponsors are responsible for following federal purchasing rules and these courses provide a great overview if you are not familiar with federal requirements.

Available SFSP Materials

Need a food safety kit? Want some informative SFSP bookmarks or a fun Summer Food, Summer Meals flyers, placemats, or a Choose My Plate poster? We have a few of these just waiting for a new home! Just contact us and we will be happy to send you what we have. Take a look here for some of the above items: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/summer-food-summer-moves>. If you want it and we have it, it's yours!

Contact Information

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Commonly Used Acronyms

SFSP – Summer Food Service Program
CNP – Child Nutrition Programs
DEED – Department of Education and Early
Development
WRO – Western Region Office
FNS – Food and Nutrition Services
FNSRO-Food and Nutrition Services Regional
Office
USDA – U.S. Department of Agriculture

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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: [USDA Complaint Email](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov) (program.intake@usda.gov).

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