

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

*Goldbelt Place
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500
Telephone: (907) 465-8708
Fax: (907) 465-8910
E-mail: linda.coate@alaska.gov*

Department of Education & Early Development

Division of Teaching & Learning Support

September 2009

Dear Superintendent:

Due to the potential for widespread H1N1 influenza outbreaks causing school closures, USDA Food and Nutrition Service has authorized a special provision for schools to continue reimbursable meal service in the event a closure is necessary. The target audience is low-income students who may not have access to other sources of food when schools are closed.

Schools participating in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs may be waived from the standard requirement to serve meals in a congregate setting for these H1N1-related school closures. Under the waiver, reimbursable meals may be claimed through the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The posted USDA memos provide specific information regarding rates of reimbursement and program operation.

School districts that wish to provide reimbursable meals under the H1N1 waiver should complete waiver requests as soon as possible. The waiver request is a planning document and must include specific information about which meals will be provided (breakfast, lunch and/or snack), how meals will be provided for off-site consumption, and food safety concerns. When submitted and approved, this plan authorizes your district school food service staff to provide school meals during a H1N1 related school closure.

Your waiver request must be submitted to Child Nutrition Services for review and approval prior to school closure. If a school is closed, an email or fax indicating the closed school sites will implement the waiver request. On the web is a *School Meals H1N Waiver Request* at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/cns/H1N1.html>

Please contact the Child Nutrition Services staff if you have concerns or questions.

Sincerely,



Linda Coate
State Program Administrator
Alaska Child Nutrition Services