



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
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HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

TO: CACFP Sponsoring Organizations

FROM: Danielle Quigley, MS, RD, CDN
Director, Bureau of Child and Adult Care Food Programs

DATE: May 10, 2021

SUBJECT: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates for CACFP Sponsoring Organizations

To support access to nutritious meals during the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended some nationwide waivers of Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) regulations. This memo explains continued flexibilities that USDA is allowing to support appropriate safety measures while managing the impacts of COVID-19.

I. Non-Congregate Feeding

- a. As allowed during the past year, meals can be distributed at a site where households pick up the meals, or they may be delivered to children and/or adult participant's homes or a combination of both if a program is not providing onsite care.
- b. Sponsors may provide multiple meals and snacks at one time for up to a 5-day period (i.e. up to two meals and one snack or two snacks and one meal per day for 5 days for each participant).
- c. In order to be approved for non-congregate meal service, the Sponsor must complete a new CACFP-213 (COVID-19 Application for Feeding Flexibility). The completed CACFP-213 and a menu must be emailed to cacfp@health.ny.gov for review and approval.
- d. This waiver is in effect until June 30, 2022.

II. Meal Pick-Up Flexibility

- a. As allowed during the past year, centers and family day care home providers who are approved for non-congregate feeding may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their enrolled child. Therefore, enrolled children do not have to be present when parents/guardians pick up meals or when meals are delivered during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- b. Sponsoring organizations must ensure that meals are only distributed to parents or guardians of enrolled children and that duplicate meals are not provided (for example, if 3-days' worth of meals are provided to a parent on Monday, the parent cannot return on Tuesday for additional meals).
- c. Sponsoring organizations should inform parents/guardians at pick up or home delivery that meals can only be eaten by the enrolled participant.
- d. This waiver is in effect until June 30, 2022.

III. Meal Pattern Flexibility

- a. If there is a shortage of a required component, sponsoring organizations may request approval from CACFP to claim meals that do not include all the required components.
- b. Sponsoring organizations should email CACFP at cacfp@health.ny.gov with the substitute menu and explain: the food items that are unavailable, steps taken to obtain those food items, and the date that you will start serving these meals.
- c. CACFP will review the request and confirm approval.

IV. Area Eligibility Flexibility (For Family Day Care Home Providers)

- a. Federal regulations establish specific area eligibility requirements and meal reimbursement rates.
- b. This waiver allows day care homes participating in CACFP to claim all meals and snacks served to enrolled children at the Tier I rate, regardless of their location.
- c. If you have day care homes that are participating in CACFP at the Tier II or Tier II Mixed rate, CACFP will update your day care home providers to Tier I in CIPS.
- d. This waiver is in effect from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

V. Monitoring Flexibility (For Day Care Home Sponsors or Multi-Center Sponsors)

- a. Federal regulations mandate specific requirements for conducting facility reviews each year.
- b. As part of a State Monitoring Plan submitted to USDA, the following monitoring requirements are in effect until September 30, 2021:
 - Only two monitoring reviews are required for each center/provider (instead of three).
 - Unannounced visits and meal observations are not required.
 - Monitoring visits can be more than six months apart.
 - New facilities must still be reviewed; however desk audits may be done in place of an onsite review.
- c. Beginning October 1, 2021, the flexibilities above will end and USDA is only waiving onsite monitoring requirements in order to support appropriate safety measures and social distancing. Offsite monitoring should be used to verify information and ensure program integrity.
 - The onsite monitoring waiver is in effect from October 1, 2021 until 30 days after the end of the public health emergency.

CACFP is available to provide assistance to all programs and appreciates the tremendous effort of Sponsoring Organizations working to meet the nutritional needs of participants during this challenging time.

For CACFP questions, contact CACFP at 1-800-942-3858 or cacfp@health.ny.gov.

Enclosures
CACFP-213 (COVID-19 Application for Feeding Flexibility)