



USDA FNS guidance for school nutrition programs during COVID-19 school closures.

WAIVERS

[Nationwide Mealtime Waiver](#)

FNS is letting meals be served to kids outside traditional times to maximize flexibility for meal pick-up.

[Nationwide Non-congregate Feeding Waiver](#)

FNS is allowing meals to be served in non-group settings to support social distancing.

[Nationwide Afterschool Activity Waiver](#)

FNS paused requirements for enrichment activities to accompany afterschool meals & snacks.

[Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver](#)

FNS is giving states the flexibility to serve meals that do not meet meal pattern requirements when needed.

[Nationwide Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver](#)

FNS is allowing parents/guardians to pick-up meals and bring them home to their children.

[Read best practices for parent pick-up provided by USDA.](#)

[Nationwide Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\) Data Waiver](#)

FNS is extending CEP election, notification, and reporting and deadlines for school year 2020-21.

Nationwide Waivers of Child Nutrition Monitoring Requirements

FNS has granted a nationwide waiver, providing flexibilities to certain onsite monitoring requirements for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.

- **[Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)**
- **[Onsite Monitoring Requirements for State Agencies in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)**
- **[Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs](#)**
- **[Onsite Monitoring Requirements for Sponsoring Organizations in the Summer Food Service Program](#)**
- **[Onsite Monitoring Requirements for State Agencies in the Summer Food Service Program](#)**
- **[Annual Review Requirements for State Agencies in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)**

[Area Eligibility Waivers](#) (issued to all states)

FNS is allowing states during unanticipated school closures to waive the requirement in the summer meals programs that “open site” meal service is limited to areas with at least half of the children in low-income households.

[60-Day Reporting Waiver](#)

FNS is extending the 60-day reporting deadline for all state agencies, school food authorities, and CACFP and SFSP sponsoring organizations for January and February 2020.

WAIVERS (Continued)

Pandemic EBT

FNS is allowing states to provide benefits (similar to SNAP or “food stamps”) to children who normally receive free or reduced-price school meals.

Nationwide Waiver for Food Service Management Contract Duration

FNS waives food service management (FSMC) contracts duration requirements for all state agencies, school food authorities, and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors. FSMC contracts that may expire by or around June 30, 2020 may be extended through school year 2020-2021.

Nationwide Waiver to Waive First Week Site Visits in the SFSP

Waives requirements that sponsors visit each of their sites at least once during the first week of operation under the program for sites that have operated successfully in the previous year and sponsors that successfully participate in the CACFP or the NSLP.

Nationwide Waiver of Local School Wellness Assessments

Waves requirement for schools unable to complete a triennial assessment of the local school wellness policies by June 30, 2020. For states electing this option, the new first triennial assessment deadline is June 30, 2021.

Nationwide Waiver of Annual Review Requirements for State Agencies in the CACFP

Waives requirement to complete CACFP monitoring on site through September 30, 2020. State agencies electing this option are encouraged to prioritize reviews of these institutions next year.

Nationwide Waiver to Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations

Waives the October through April time limitation for implementation of SSO and SFSP during unanticipated school closures and allows State agencies that elect this option to permit SFAs to operate under unanticipated school closure requirements through June 30, 2020. The requirement for SFSP or SSO sponsors to submit written applications by June 15, 2020 is also waived. There is no Federal application deadline for summer 2020; however, State agencies must establish a deadline based on local conditions.

GUIDANCE

USDA has issued a series of documents on flexibilities and waiver requirements for the child nutrition programs intended to support effective operations and provide meals while also supporting social distancing in order to reduce the exposure to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

[SFSP and SSO Meal Delivery Using Existing Authority](#)

In the early days of the pandemic response FNS provided waivers enabling Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors to serve meals in a non-congregate setting and at school sites during school closures related to the coronavirus.

[Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\) during COVID-19](#)

FNS is exercising its enforcement discretion to allow the following flexibilities in the operation of the FFVP.

[Q&A for Child Nutrition Program Monitoring and Reporting Nationwide Waivers](#)

The questions include clarification about flexibilities for on-site monitoring, recordkeeping requirements, administrative reviews in the school meal programs, monitoring the Seamless Summer Option, procurement reviews, 60 days reporting requirement flexibilities and Equipment Assistant Grant extensions.

[Q&A for Meal Service Time, Non-Congregate Feeding, and Activity Requirement Waivers](#)

The following questions and answers are meant to address questions on three nationwide waivers, Meal Service Time, Non-Congregate Feeding, and Afterschool Activity Requirement.

[Q&A related to Child Nutrition Program Meal Service](#)

Including clarification on; Milk Requirements, SFSP Closed Enrollment Sites and Camps, Site Finder – SFSP/SSO, CACFP Meal Delivery, Multi-Program Sponsors, Claims and Payments, Civil Rights, Weekend and Holiday Meals

[Reporting COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Data](#)

Each COVID-19 school nutrition program waiver requires that State agencies and local Program operators provide certain summaries and descriptions of their use. To begin collecting some of the basic required data elements, USDA FNS is asking States to report a small number of additional data elements with their routine data reporting on the FNS-10, FNS-44, or FNS-418 Forms.