



Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education



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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS
FROM: DCCECE / HNU
DATE: MARCH 26, 2020
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the
Child Nutrition Programs

This is an important notice regarding the recent COVID-19 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs

Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs

Under Program regulations at 7 CFR 210.10(b) and (c), 220.8(b) and (c), 225.16(d), and 226.20, Child Nutrition Program meals must meet meal pattern requirements. However, FNS recognizes that, in this public health emergency, appropriate safety measures are necessary. Therefore, FNS waives, for all States, the requirements at 7 CFR 210.10(b) and (c), 220.8(b) and (c), 225.16(d), and 226.20, to serve meals that meet the meal pattern requirements during the public health emergency.

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. FNS and State Agency expects and strongly encourages Program operators to maintain and meet the nutrition standards for each Program to the greatest extent possible.

If your program is unable to meet regulatory meal pattern requirements, the Meal Pattern Waiver must be completed in a timely manner to the State Agency requesting approval to serve meals outside of meal pattern requirements. Programs may not serve meals outside of the meal pattern without State approval, doing so will result in meals not being reimbursable. The Meal Pattern Waiver Form is located on the SNP Resource Library under COVID-19 and attached to this mass alert.

If your program needs to participate in the Nationwide Waiver, please submit your Meal Pattern Waiver to the following individuals:

Thomas Sheppard, Thomas.Sheppard@dhs.arkansas.gov
James Ponzini, James.Ponzini@dhs.arkansas.gov
Rhonda Betzner, Rhonda.Betzner@dhs.arkansas.gov

This waiver is effective immediately and remains in effect until April 30, 2020 or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All Meal Pattern Waivers will be reviewed, and approval will be granted if they meet waiver requirements. Reminder, you must have approval from the State Agency before you adjust meal pattern requirements under the Nationwide Waiver.

Please keep this memo on file for quick and easy reference. A copy is also available on the resource library under HNP Mass Alerts and COVID-19 References. If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact your Program Coordinator at: 501-682-8869.