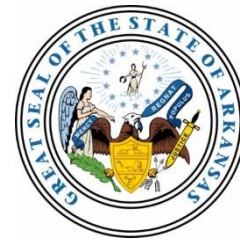




Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education



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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS
FROM: DCCECE / HNU
DATE: MARCH 16, 2020
SUBJECT: SFSP DUE TO SCHOOL CLOSURES

This is an important notice regarding the recent school closures due to the COVID-19 outbreak:

Governor Hutchinson announced statewide school closures through March 27. While the schools are closed, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) will be in operation. If at any point this deadline is extended, we will continue to utilize SFSP. Arkansas Department of Human Services/ Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education/Health Nutrition Unit will approve institutions in good standing who were approved in the SFSP program for the Summer 2019.

A public or private school who participates in the National School Lunch Program, even if they didn't participate in SFSP in 2019, their SFSP application will be fast tract for approval, even if they didn't participate last year in SFSP whose school is closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. All schools will be given first priority. Sponsors that participated in SFSP in 2019 can participate in SFSP while the schools are closed. The institution must operate in communities where schools are closed in connection with the COVID-19 outbreak. **The institution must be pre-approved by DHS to ensure coordination of feeding services with the public school in the area. SFSP SITES CANNOT OPERATE WITHOUT FIRST BEING APPROVED THROUGH DHS**

SFSP providers will be allowed to serve meals to children using a grab and go type service. Students will be allowed to take meals away from the serving site to consume the meals avoiding large numbers congregating in one place. Until the emergency school closures has ended, providers will be asked to report which days the school is closed, the days they plan to serve meals, and number of meals served.

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