



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF FOOD AND NUTRITION
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Secretary

To: All New Jersey School Food Authorities and Sponsoring Organizations Participating in the United States Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Programs

From: Rose Tricario, Division Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rose Tricario".

Date: March 30, 2020

Subject: United States Department of Agriculture COVID-19 Nationwide Waivers

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced six nationwide waivers that impact School Food Authorities and Sponsoring Organizations participating in the Child Nutrition Programs. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) has notified the USDA that it elects to use these waivers as they apply to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), collectively, the Child Nutrition Programs.

These waivers allow School Food Authorities and Sponsoring Organizations participating in the Child Nutrition Programs to:

1. Suspend meal service times in the Child Nutrition Programs as necessary during this public health emergency related to COVID-19.
2. Serve meals through the Child Nutrition Programs in non-congregate settings. Meals need not be consumed by participants on site.
 - Non-congregate feeding has been sanctioned by the USDA for schools through the SFSP and SSO as described in the NJDA memos dated March 13, 2020 and March 19, 2020. Additionally, Q&As have been provided for implementation reference on March 13, 2020.
3. Serve afterschool snacks in the NSLP and at-risk afterschool meals and snacks in the Child and Adult Care Food Program without needing to provide a structured, supervised environment with an educational or enrichment activity.
4. Serve meals that do not meet the meal pattern should disruptions to the food supply occur resulting from the unprecedented impacts of COVID-19.

5. Allow parents and guardians to pick up and take home meals from distribution sites, provided that a process is in place to ensure that meals are distributed only to the parents and guardians of eligible children and that duplicate meals are not distributed.
6. Waive all deadlines related to the Community Eligibility Provision of the NSLP and SBP.

Guidance regarding these new nationwide waivers will be forthcoming. For questions regarding the guidance or for specific program information, please contact the NJDA Division of Food and Nutrition staff at the applicable phone number listed below or e-mail your program specialist.

School Nutrition Programs – 609-984-0693
Summer Food Service Program – 609-292-4498
Child and Adult Care Food Program – 609-984-1250