

Summary of COVID - 19 Information to NH SAUs

This Information Provides NEW Waiver Updates for SY 20-21

Can my SAU offer meals during the school year 2020 - 2021?

Yes, any SAU can apply to serve meals through the NH Department of Education (NH DOE) Office of Nutrition Programs and Services (contact: patricia.carignan@doe.nh.gov, marty.davis@doe.nh.gov, or cheri.white@doe.nh.gov). Federal reimbursement can be provided for reimbursable meals served at all approved meal sites. SAUs can provide meals under the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program and as free, reduced price and paid as they normally would, but with a few waivers provided by USDA. The waivers are below.

What are the instructions for providing meals in bulk?

When providing meals in bulk **the SAU office** must be aware of and approve of the activity and:

- Must include the required food components in the proper minimum amounts for each reimbursable meal being claimed.
- Must ensure that food items are clearly identifiable as making up reimbursable meals.
- Are strongly encouraged to provide menus with directions indicating which items are to be used for each meal and the portion sizes.
- Should consider whether households have access to refrigeration, stoves, microwaves, etc. when providing food that requires refrigeration or further preparation such as reheating.
- Should ensure that only minimal preparation is required and that food is not provided as ingredients for recipes that require chopping, mixing, baking, etc.
- Should ensure that all meals are produced and served according to all food safety rules and regulations.

How can I apply to serve meals?

- SAUs must complete the NSLP application once it is rolled over for the new year. The NH DOE Office of Nutrition Programs and Services (cheri.white@doe.nh.gov, marty.davis@doe.nh.gov, kathryn.hodges@doe.nh.gov) will notify all school food service directors on its email list when the roll over occurs.

Can I serve the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program during the COVID-19 emergency period?

- FFVP has complex compliance requirements and it is best to contact Alexis Dwyer at alexis.dwyer@doe.nh.gov to discuss your individual circumstances.

Are there resources available to School Food Service to provide guidance on serving meals?

What flexibilities are available to Districts serving meals during this time?

- USDA has the following website where guidance memos and waivers are found:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/new-hampshire#cn>

Below is a summary of nationwide and state waivers of Child Nutrition Program regulations for 20-21.

- **Non-congregate Feeding Waiver** – This allows the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program to provide meals in a non-congregate way in order to allow social distancing during the COVID-19 public health emergency period during the school year. **NEW! Extended to June 30, 2021.**
- **Meal Times Waiver** – Allows meals, such as breakfast and lunch, to be provided to a child at the same time for consumption off-site at whatever time the child or household chooses. **NEW! Extended to June 30, 2021.**
- **Meal Pattern Waiver** – Allows deviations from the meal pattern in certain circumstances for example, during temporary and periodic inability to obtain a particular meal component like milk or an appropriate vegetable. **This waiver requires State agency approval.** Please contact Cheri White at cheri.white@doe.nh.gov **NEW! Extended to June 30, 2021.**
- **Parent Pick-Up Waiver for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program** – Allows the parent/guardian to pick up their child’s meals. This waiver does not transfer to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). The Office of Nutrition Programs and Services has submitted a waiver specifically for parent pick up for the FFVP. We will notify the Food Service Directors when we have the answer. **NEW! Extended to June 30, 2021.**
- **NEW WAIVER!: Offer VS. Serve Flexibility for High School Students – Lifts the requirement to serve High School students lunches under offer vs. serve. High School food service departments may serve their students who may be onsite, the full meal (unitized meal) with all components available, especially if they are being served meals in containers or bags in the classroom. The State agency will approve this waiver via the National School Lunch Program application. Deadline for the waiver is June 30, 2021.**
- **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Deadlines Waiver** – This waiver extends deadlines for the Community Eligibility Provision.
- **Summer Food Service Program Monitoring for Sponsors** – SAUs that are offering the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) during summer 2020 are allowed to perform monitoring off-site.
- **Summer Food Service Program Monitoring for State Agency** – The State agency is allowed to perform monitoring off-site for SFSP during the summer 2020. This waiver is in effect until August 31, 2020.

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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