

# FOOD PROGRAM Memo



## Response Needed - CACFP COVID-19 Waiver

USDA issued a CACFP Non-congregate Feeding Waiver that allows childcare providers to supply meals for their enrolled children, to be eaten off-site, **upon submitting a request to their Sponsor (4-C CACFP)**. Serving meals off-site may better enable you to supply meals to enrolled children while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19. This waiver took effect March 20, 2020, and will remain in effect through June 30, 2020, or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is sooner.

Supplying meals/snacks to be eaten off-site by your enrolled children means that you can prepare meals for pick-up by your enrolled children's families or you may deliver these meals/snacks to their homes. This waiver also enables providers to distribute more than one day's worth of meals at a time. Providers must establish a schedule for meal pick-up or delivery.

In order to use these flexibilities, you must submit a waiver request.

[CLICK HERE for 4-C CACFP Waiver Request](#)

## Further Guidance from DPI about Non-congregate Feeding

If providers are supplying multiple meals for multiple children at one time, meals may be distributed in the following ways:

- Meals must be “unitized”, meaning that each meal component for each meal is portioned out for each child.
- **OR** If not “unitized”, then the provider should provide a menu for the meals to be served each day and written instructions to the families on how to portion out the foods for each meal. *Example:* A grocery bag may include all the meal components for each meal for a 5-day period, along with the menu and instructions for households.

If providers care for school-age children, these children and their siblings may be receiving meals from the school district's meal program. You should not supply and claim for the same meals supplied by the school's program. School districts that have a meal program during this pandemic can provide off-site meals (breakfasts, lunches, and possibly suppers and a snack) free of charge to all children enrolled in their schools plus their siblings and other children living in the household.

Parents must give consent to receiving meals from only one program for each child per day in the household. They should not be accepting two meals per child for the same meal type each day, one from the school district's program and the other from the provider's off-site meals for the children enrolled in her childcare.

Providers should not offer to supply off-site meals for her enrolled children who they know are already receiving meals from the school's program. This is unless the provider presents this offer as a choice between the school's meals or their meals for the children enrolled in their care. Then, the parents must decide to accept meals from

one program or the other per child. The provider's meals may be more appropriate for young children.

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