

FOOD PROGRAM Memo



CACFP & COVID-19 UPDATES AS OF 3/20/20

On March 20, 2020 DPI sent all Family Day Care Sponsors a document with guidance to questions related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Below are excerpts from the document that apply to family child care providers on the CACFP.

- ✓ **There is no change to the DPI claim processing and payment schedule.**
The February 4-C CACFP claim payment will be deposited or checks sent by March 27th.
 - ✓ **Claiming meals for children as a result of DCF's suspended rules on group size and hours and day of operation.**
FDCH sponsors may pay providers for meals served to children in care in accordance with DCF's suspended rules. However, providers may only be reimbursed for two meals and one snack or two snacks and one meal per child per day.
 - ✓ **Food Shortages/Disruptions in Food Supply**
If you have concerns of being able to find specific foods at the store, try making changes to your menu so that the meals you serve will meet the meal pattern requirements. Examples:
 - **Milk:** Sponsors may allow reimbursement for meals when providers are not able to find milk that meets the program requirements for their enrolled children's age groups OR cannot find any milk at all to purchase at the store. In these situations, providers must record on their menus, for each affected meal, the type of milk served or that no milk was served due to unavailability for purchase. Providers must still attempt to purchase milk throughout this period, since milk may or may not be available in stores at different times. Snacks must still serve two different components. If milk is not available they must serve two other components.
- Paper Providers:** please note any of this directly on your menus.
- Online Providers:** the food chart has been updated to accommodate recording of this – in the milk section you will now see 3 options to choose from:
1. *"Milk"* – this option is still available – by choosing it, you are indicating you served the correct milks to each age group.
 2. *"Other"* – please select this option if you served milk but were not able to purchase the correct milks for each age group due to unavailability of milk. You must also keep a written record of what milk was served for 4-C CACFP staff to review at a later date.
 3. *"No Milk Available To Purchase"* – please select this option if you were unable to serve milk due to unavailability in the store to purchase.
- **Infant Formula:** If providers are unable to find the brand of infant formula they normally purchase, they still must purchase at least one type of infant formula for providing meals to their enrolled infants, even if the formulas available at the store are more expensive. Providers may also try ordering the formula they normally purchase online, directly from the manufacturer.
 - **Meat/Meat Alternates and Fruits/Vegetables:** For other foods such as meats, eggs, and fresh fruits/vegetables, the CACFP meal pattern has other options that may be served in place of these items such as peanut & nut butters, legumes, canned beans (black, pinto, etc.), yogurt, cheese, canned fish/tuna, and canned or frozen fruits and vegetables.

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- **Bread:** Even though there has been a shortage of bread in stores, specifically whole grain rich (WGR) bread, providers are still required to serve at least one WGR item per day. There are many other WGR items besides bread that are still available (ex. tortillas, crackers (Wheat Thins, Triscuits, Goldfish, etc.), rice cakes, English muffins, bagels, cereal, oatmeal, quinoa, pasta, etc.). You may also make homemade WGR items like bread or muffins. There are standardized recipes on the Child Nutrition Recipe Box website: <https://theicn.org/cnrb/> Click on "Search Recipes" and type in "muffins". That will bring up some WGR recipes for the CACFP including one for Breakfast Muffins and a WGR Dinner Roll.
- ✓ **Family day care homes cannot receive meals delivered from schools operating meal delivery programs.**
If providers close their daycare due to COVID-19, then the parents of the children who normally attend their daycare may give consent to receive meals through a school's meal delivery program. However, family day care homes cannot sign-up to receive delivery of meals for all of the children enrolled in their daycare. They must continue to serve meals through the CACFP. If the provider's own children attend a school that is providing meals, the provider may give consent to receive delivered meals for only the children living in her home.
- ✓ **Non-congregate Feeding – Sending Meals home with children.**
The CACFP is not yet approved by USDA to serve meals by "non-congregate" methods, like sending meals home with children or having families pick up meals prepared at the provider's home. On March 18, 2020, congress passed an emergency bill giving USDA the authority to approve state waiver requests for the CACFP to serve meals by non-congregate methods. DPI is prepared to submit a waiver request for this flexibility, but is waiting to see if USDA will issue a blanket waiver for all states. Stay tuned for further guidance on this.

4-C UPDATES

We appreciate everyone's patience as 4-C waits for continued guidance to come from USDA and DPI. We will continue to forward any information we receive from USDA and DPI. Please visit the 4-C COVID-19 webpage frequently for 4-C updates (<https://www.4-c.org/contact-us/4-c-covid-19-updates.html>).

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