

**Date:** April 27, 2020

**To:** Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) List-Serv Members

**From:** Community Nutrition Team

**Subject:** CACFP Bulletin April 2020-21: COVID-19 Extension CACFP Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver

### **Announcements from the Wisconsin Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**

#### **COVID - 19 Extension CACFP Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver**

On April 21, 2020, the USDA extended the effective date of the nationwide waiver to allow meal pattern flexibility from April 30, 2020, to May 31, 2020. This waiver extends previously approved waivers and allows agencies to submit waiver requests if experiencing supply disruptions for one or more components that begin during this extended period.

**You do not need to resubmit a waiver form for meal pattern flexibility on components already approved if still experiencing these same supply disruptions.**

#### **WAIVER FORM**

Complete this waiver form **ONLY** if your agency is currently experiencing disruptions to the availability of food products for one or more components not previously approved:

<https://forms.gle/4Hurq1cFxAvEh3Si6>

The DPI will review each waiver request and approve on a case-by-case basis. You will receive notification when your request is approved or denied. CACFP operators must make every effort to meet the meal pattern requirements during these supply disruptions.

Below are ways to handle food shortages while still meeting CACFP meal pattern requirements. To the extent possible, make changes to your menu so meals meet meal pattern requirements, and document substitutions on your menus.

- You must attempt to purchase different food products to meet meal components throughout this period, since they may or may not be available at different times. If the food product becomes available again, you must incorporate it into meal service as soon as possible.
- If stores are limiting the number of items that can be purchased at one time (i.e. gallons of milk, loaves of bread, etc.), it is recommended that you talk with the store manager and inform him/her that you are a child care facility that provides meals for more than one household. You may want to bring a copy of your license to the store with you.
- All required CACFP documentation must be maintained on file (i.e. documenting substitutions/omissions on the menu and production records)

## **Milk**

If you are temporarily unable to purchase or receive milk, or if you are unable to purchase milk with the correct fat content for the ages of children, you must still attempt to purchase milk throughout this period, since milk may or may not be available in stores at different times.

## **Bread and other Whole Grains**

Even though there may have been a shortage of bread in stores, specifically whole grain rich (WGR) bread, institutions and facilities 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, brown rice, wild rice, etc.).
- Another option is to make homemade WGR items like bread or muffins with whole wheat flour. 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.

## **Other Foods**

There may also be shortages of 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.

For menu ideas including shelf stable foods, check out this link:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/shelf-stable-menu-items.pdf>

Also check out DPI’s Facebook page for other posted recipes:

<https://www.facebook.com/WisDPICommunityNutrition>

## **Infant Formula**

If the brand of infant formula normally purchased is not available at the store, you must still purchase at least one type of infant formula to provide meals to the enrolled infants, even if the formulas available are more expensive. You may also try ordering the formula normally purchased directly from the manufacturer.

For more COVID-19 information visit DPI’s Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) COVID-19 Information webpage. <https://dpi.wi.gov/nutrition/coronavirus/cacfp>