

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



CACFP BULLETIN

June 2021-13

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

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Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver (ALL)

The USDA issued a nationwide waiver to allow for specific meal pattern flexibilities from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

This meal pattern waiver is for the following CACFP requirements:

- (1) That at least one grain serving per day must be whole grain rich,
- (2) That the crediting of grains by ounce equivalents must be fully implemented by October 1, 2021, and
- (3) That low-fat (1 percent) milk must be unflavored (Only children 6 years and older may be served flavored milk).

Ounce Equivalents for Grains

The DPI provided training on this topic and there is a recording of the webinar available [here](#). Additional resources on implementation for grains by ounce equivalents can be found on the [Ounce Equivalents for Grains](#) webpage. Also, other resources have been updated to reflect these changes. Refer to [Guidance Memorandum 12: Meal Requirements](#).

WAIVER FORM

Complete this waiver form ONLY if your agency is currently experiencing difficulties with one or more of the requirements listed above. Use this link: <https://forms.gle/LXWczruTNZnvwPju7>

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.

If approved, it is expected that meal pattern flexibilities will be utilized only as needed, and that program operators must make every effort to meet the meal pattern requirements to the greatest extent possible. All other meal pattern requirements must be followed.

Waivers for Off-Site Meals (ALL)

The following three waivers apply to programs that want to serve meals off-site. The intent of the following waivers is to provide meals to participants when meals cannot be served onsite due to COVID, for example, the site is closed due to a COVID outbreak, or a site is offering a virtual learning option. The waiver should not be used when regular program operations have resumed.

WAIVER FORM

All programs requesting to participate in these waivers, even if previously submitted, must complete the waiver request using this link: <https://forms.gle/HSprCxiy1yYYMoRo8>

Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver (ALL)

USDA continues to waive the requirement that meals/snacks be consumed onsite for agencies that elect to participate in this waiver. Meals/snacks may be picked-up or delivered through **June 30, 2022**. **Complete the Google form (link above)**, even if previously submitted, to send DPI your process for implementation.

Important Reminders:

Waiver is intended only for participants enrolled in the CACFP or participating in an afterschool program under the CACFP, not for siblings or adult household members.

Meals must include all required food components in the proper minimum amounts for each meal being claimed;

Ensure food items are clearly identifiable as making up reimbursable meals;

Provide menus with directions indicating which items are to be served for each meal and the portion sizes;

Consider whether households have access to refrigeration, stoves, microwaves, etc., when providing food items that require refrigeration or further preparation, such as reheating;

Consider sending food items that require minimal preparation and the items do not need to be extensively modified through chopping, mixing, baking, etc.

Allow Parents/Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Participants (ALL)

USDA continues to allow parents or guardians to pick up meals and bring them home to their children who are enrolled in the CACFP. This waiver is extended through **June 30, 2022**, for agencies who elect to participate. This waiver also applies to guardians picking up meals for adult participants in the Adult Care component. The purpose of this waiver is so enrolled participants are not required to accompany the parent/guardian while picking up the meals. **Complete the Google form (link above)**, even if previously submitted, to send DPI your process for implementation.

Agencies must have a plan to ensure meals are distributed only to parents or guardians of enrolled participants and that children are not receiving duplicate meals from other child nutrition programs. For example:

Maintain a roster with the names of enrolled participants and check off when the meal(s) are provided to the family of the enrolled participant.

Ask if the enrolled children received the same meals from another child nutrition program.

Meal Service Time Flexibility Waiver (ALL)

USDA continues to waive the meal service time requirements through **June 30, 2022**, for agencies that elect to participate in this waiver. This waiver allows agencies to supply meals/snacks to participants outside contracted meal service times, which allows for grab-n-go options and multiple days-worth of meals to be provided at once. **Complete the Google form (link above)**, even if previously submitted, to send DPI your process for implementation.

The maximum number of meals or snacks that can be claimed per participant per day is the same as under normal CACFP operation:

Child Care, Adult Care, Head Start, Outside of School Hours Programs: Up to two meals and one snack, or two snacks and one meal, per participant per day;

At-Risk Afterschool Programs: Up to one meal and one snack per participant per day;

Emergency Shelters: Up to three meals per participant per day

Note: Agencies are **not required** to provide meals through these waivers. If an agency closes due to COVID-19, families of the children who normally attend may receive meals for their children through the local school district under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Refer to the Team Nutrition resource [Providing Multiple Meals at a Time During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) for information about using bulk foods and distributing multiple meals at a time.

Check out the **CACFP COVID-19 Questions and Answers** by clicking [here](#).



REMINDER: Claim Submission Deadlines: Federal regulations impose a claim submission deadline of 60 calendar days after the last day of the month for which the claim applies. For DPI's CACFP Claim Submission Deadlines visit [Claim Submission Deadlines](#).

For DPI's CACFP COVID-19 Information visit [CACFP COVID-19 Information](#).

Program Abbreviation Key

- CC:** Child Care
- AR:** At Risk
- FDCH:** Family Day Care Home
- HS:** Head Start
- ES:** Emergency Shelters
- SO:** Sponsoring Organizations
- OS:** Outside of School Hours Care
- ADC:** Adult Day Care
- ALL:** Applies to all types

The abbreviation key identifies each type of program in the CACFP. Each section above identifies who the information applies to when implementing the CACFP. If your type of program is not listed in a section, it does not apply.

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