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TO: CACFP Sponsoring Organizations

FROM: Danielle Quigley, MS, RD, CDN *Danielle Quigley, MS, RD, CDN*
Director, Bureau of Child and Adult Care Food Programs

DATE: September 25, 2020

SUBJECT: Remote Learning in Childcare Settings during Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

September marks the sixth month of the coronavirus pandemic and a unique set of challenges as a new school year begins. School reopening plans for 2020-2021 consist of an unprecedented variety of learning environments including: traditional in-person learning, remote learning, or a hybrid model involving multiple options. Some of these options involve remote learning in childcare settings for the first time ever.

Under normal circumstances, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) regulations do not allow centers and day care home providers to claim meals for school-age children during the school day. This memo explains how to claim meals for school age children, integrity requirements and information for At-Risk childcare programs that provide care to children who are not attending in-person instruction at school on one or more days a week.

I. Claiming meals for school age children

- a. CACFP Sponsors can claim meals served to school-age children who are attending school virtually in childcare settings through June 30, 2021. Virtual or remote learning days are days when children are not learning in-person at the school. Children are expected to work on their lessons in a location other than the school.
- b. Centers and daycare home providers may claim two meals and one snack, or two snacks and one meal per child per day.

II. Integrity Requirements

- a. Students enrolled in both school and childcare may receive meals through multiple Child Nutrition Programs. However, program integrity must be maintained.
- b. Meals cannot be claimed through CACFP if meals are brought from home or provided by the local school.
- c. Meals and snacks must meet CACFP meal pattern requirements.
- d. Income eligibility applications must be maintained for centers and Tier I daycare home providers' own children that want to claim meals served on remote learning days. CACFP will notify Sponsors if USDA offers additional flexibilities for collecting income eligibility applications.

III. Centers Approved for At-Risk Meals

- a. Virtual or remote learning days are considered school days, therefore At-Risk meals cannot be claimed. Regular meals and snacks **can** be claimed during the school day.

- b. At-Risk snack and/or supper may only be claimed if they are served to children after the school day has ended and students continue in afterschool care.
- c. On actual non-school days (holidays, school vacation, snow days, and days when the school does not have in-person or remote learning scheduled) meals can be claimed as At-Risk when served during the day.

CACFP recognizes the tremendous effort of Sponsoring Organizations working to meet the nutritional needs of participants during this challenging time. CACFP is available to provide assistance to all programs. Please contact us at 1-800-942-3858 or cacfp@health.ny.gov.