



NY State Updates on Coronavirus and Operation of Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs

Hunger Solutions New York is following the development of emergency plans for the continued operation of federal nutrition programs as New York communities work to slow the spread of COVID-19.

We would like to share the information we currently have with regard to School Meals and SNAP.

School Meals

NYS Education Department Guidance: ["Operating Child Nutrition Programs when Schools are Closed due to COVID-19"](#) encourages schools to prepare now to be able to continue to provide "critical support services" like school meals in the event of a school closure. Highlights include:

- School districts and sponsors in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) may provide reimbursable meals to low-income children during school closures related to COVID-19.
- To provide meals to children in areas affected by school closures, schools must complete a one page [application](#) and submit to CNCCOVID@nysed.gov for review and approval, prior to commencing meal operations.
- Upon Child Nutrition's approval of their application, schools may provide up to two meals per day per child through the SFSP or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program.
- Meals may be provided and consumed at schools or other locations in the community or provided for consumption at home.

- This memo also includes a [Q&A](#) to clarify guidance for operating child nutrition programs when schools are closed due to COVID-19.

We encourage any school with questions to please contact your Child Nutrition Program Representative directly, or email CNCOVID@nysed.gov if you have additional questions or concerns.

SNAP

On March 12th, OTDA issued a [notice on COVID-19](#) to social service districts. Highlights include:

- No waivers and no special provisions have been approved or offered to the states in the operation of SNAP, and the program continues to operate normally. Local social service districts should continue to plan to ensure safe and continuous access to SNAP.
 - Local districts are reminded of the requirement to grant good cause when a participant's failure to meet program requirements is due to factors beyond the participant's control. The COVID-19 pandemic may result in the inability of individuals to attend agency appointments, including work activity assignments, due to factors such as lack of transportation, lack of child-care, or worksite closures.
 - Districts are reminded that telephone interviews at both application and recertification are permissible for all SNAP households and are encouraged to utilize or implement this process. For SNAP cases due for recertification, districts also have the option to extend the certification period up to the maximum allowable certification period of 12 or 24 months, or up to 48 months for NYSNIP cases.
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These additional websites are providing updated information as it becomes available.

- [NYS Education Department Coronavirus Information for Schools](#)
- [Food Research and Action Center - Preparing for the Impacts of the Coronavirus on Health, Well-being, and Food Security](#)
- [USDA FNS Program Guidance on Pandemic Response](#) including the [USDA SNAP Pandemic Planning Guidelines](#)

As a statewide organization dedicated to alleviating hunger, our mission is more important than ever. We will continue to keep you updated on developments.



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