



Important Updates Regarding COVID-19 & Federal Nutrition Programs

This email provides a summary of updates to federal nutrition program rules and guidance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Millions of New Yorkers rely on these programs every day and the need will only increase in the coming weeks and months. We will continue to share updates on our COVID-19 webpage and keep you posted on important developments.

Visit our [COVID-19 Webpage](#) for the latest updates

SNAP Outreach Materials

Hunger Solutions New York has released an [outreach flyer](#) that can be shared with anyone potentially eligible for SNAP. The flyer summarizes how people can apply for and use SNAP while keeping a safe distance from others, and includes a list of Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) Coordinators who can provide telephone and email assistance to help apply for SNAP. We encourage our partners in schools, food banks and pantries, local government, labor, and community organizations to share this resource with those they serve.

Updates: SNAP

- SNAP offices in all counties are **not to impose the ABAWD 3-month time limit rule** starting on April 1, 2020 and until otherwise instructed by OTDA.
- **New SNAP applicants will not have to have an interview** as long as the applicant's identity has been verified; and all other mandatory information and

verification has been provided and is valid. If either of these conditions are not met, then an interview will be required. Interviews can be conducted by phone.

- **A three-month extension of SNAP benefits** will be given to SNAP recipients who were to re-certify for SNAP in March (and have not done so yet), April, or May.
 - USDA issued a **fraud alert** advising SNAP recipients to be aware of potential scams.
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Updates: Child and Adult Care Food Program

Nationwide waivers have been issued that will allow for additional flexibilities within the CACFP program. These include:

- **Non-congregate feeding**, which allows CACFP sponsors to continue serving meals to children and adult participants individually.
 - Meals can be **distributed at a site where households pick up the meals or delivered** to children and/or adult participant's homes, or a combination of both.
 - Sponsors may provide **multiple meals and snacks** at one time for up to a 3-day period.
 - **Enrolled children do not have to be present** to receive meals - parents or guardians may pick up meals to bring home for those children.
 - Sponsoring organizations may request approval to **serve meals that do not follow the meal pattern** if there is a shortage of a required food component
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Updates: School Meals

Nationwide waivers have been issued by USDA that provide schools with additional flexibilities to improve children's access to school meals. These include:

- **Waives the requirement that meal sites must be located in areas where at least 50 percent of NSLP participants are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.**
This waiver allows for previously non-area eligible school food authorities and community organizations to serve meals to **all** children through SFSP sites and SSO during the emergency school closures associated with COVID-19.
- **Extends the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** election, notification and reporting, and deadlines for the 2020-21 school year.
- Allows the state to locally **waive specific meal pattern requirements** for breakfast, lunch, snack and supper as needed to support access to nutritious meals when

certain foods are not available.

Read full updates on our COVID-19 Webpage

We will continue to send email updates, post updates to our website, and use Facebook and Twitter to share information. Thank you for your continued efforts to help New Yorkers with needed access to food during this time.



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