

Monthly Update



School Nutrition Programs

August 20, 2020

Distributed to the School Nutrition Program Authorized Representatives Listserv and the Food Service Directors Listserv and posted at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New

Town Hall Tuesdays at 2

Join us each Tuesday at 2:00 pm for a Town Hall meeting at:

<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/92455494779?pwd=aWpUUDI3N3hOVGcx01CRWg1NDJ2Zz09>. On Tuesday, August 25, agenda items will include a new COVID Food Safety Q & A Resource, New USDA Guidance, Best Practices for Breakfast Grab & Go Meal Service and more! For a complete list of all Professional Development opportunities that includes Zoom links, check out the [CNW Calendar](#).

Navigating Change 2020: Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Must Sponsors provide access to meals for students participating in remote learning?

A. Yes. Regardless of learning environment, students must have access to meals.

Q. Can a school serve meals only to free and reduced eligible students?

A. No, NSLP regulations require that meals be available to all students enrolled regardless of eligibility category.

Q. If parents CHOOSE to keep their children at home for remote learning, do we have to send meals home to them?

A. The Sponsor needs to have a plan on how to make meals available to students. Home delivery is not required.

Q. In a Hybrid Learning scenario when some students are at school and some are at home, does the same meal need to be offered to all students in person and remote?

A. Meals must be offered to remote students. The meals provided must meet meal pattern requirements. It would not have to be the same exact meals as in person students. It is acceptable to have a different menu for meals served for eating at school and meals that are sent home.

Q. Do we have to make potable water available for meals served outside of the cafeteria?

A. Yes. However, a waiver has been submitted to USDA on the potable water requirement for non-cafeteria meals. We have not yet received word back from USDA. The goal of the KSDE waiver is that water would not have to be available for meals served outside of the cafeteria. This would include parent pick-up, non-congregate meals, as well as meals eaten in the classroom. If meals are served in the cafeteria, water could be made available, as a school has done in previous years.

Q. How do we handle both in-person meals and remote meals at the same time?

A. If you have both students in person and remote, you will need to develop a procedure to offer meals to both. You can distribute multiple meals at a time to the remote students. This meal pick-up could be outside of the in-person school schedule (at night, weekend, etc.). You do not have to distribute meals to remote students at the same scheduled time as the in-person students.



Q. We are offering in school as well as remote instruction. Do we claim the children the same way? How do we go about serving the remote students?

A. Remote, off-campus students can be served using parent pick-up, non-congregate, and meal-time waivers. For example, you could establish a parent pick-up day and time frame for remote families to pick-up meals for the week. Multiple meals (up to 5 days-worth) can be distributed at one time for planned school days. Remote and in-person meals must be claimed by benefit status.

Q. Will we still be required to provide meals for remote learners if our district is offering a choice for families?

A. Yes. The district plan should make it clear to parents how and where they can get access to meals. You could set up an ordering system for remote learners to offer the meal options to those choosing to learn remotely.

Q. If you have in school classes and some students learning remotely, do we deliver to students not coming to the building?

A. If you want to deliver, you can, but you are not required to “deliver” meals to the homes of remote students. However, sponsors should offer meals to remote students using the parent pick-up meal distribution model. You must have a proper POS procedure for counting meals for either method.

Q. If half the student body reports on Monday and Tuesday for in-person learning and the building is closed on Wednesday for deep cleaning and the other half of the student body reports on Thursday and Friday for in-person learning, would we be required to serve meals on Wednesday?

A. Are the students assigned remote learning for Wednesday? If it is a planned learning day, then meals must be offered.

Q. Will multiple grab and go meals be allowed to continue for SY 2020-2021?

A. Yes. The USDA extension of both the Meal Time Flexibility Waiver and Non-Congregate Meal Waiver on June 25, 2020, allows for the continuation of grab and go meals. Multiple meals may be provided to remote learners. Meals may be provided during the school day, at the end of the day when the student departs to go home for the following days when remote instruction will be occurring, or picked up from the school for the remote instructional day(s). Up to five days' worth of meals (as approved in KN-CLAIM) for remote instructional days may be provided at one time. For example, if students are in school for two consecutive days and the following three days are virtual instructional days, students can be provided three days' worth of meals. As a reminder, only meal types approved on the KN-CLAIM Site Application may be claimed for reimbursement.

Q. May meals be served (for pick-up or grab and go) to enrolled students for instructional days at a school building that they would not normally attend for in-person instruction?

A. Yes. To provide students with better access to reimbursable meals on remote instructional days, meals may be served (for pick-up, grab and go, etc.) at centralized school building locations to enrolled students. Point of service meal counts must be reported and claimed for the building which the student is enrolled. While the point of service (in this case, meal distribution) is normally considered the location where meals are claimed in KN-CLAIM, the Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Meals permits meals to be served outside of the “normal/traditional cafeteria setting”, but as stated above meals must be associated back to the building the student is enrolled (or would have normally eaten if non-congregate meal service was not permitted).



Q. May meals be served to enrolled students for instructional days at non-school sites?

A. Yes. To provide students with better access to reimbursable meals on remote instructional days, meals may be served to enrolled students on/for instructional days at non-school sites. This includes locations within the communities, bus stops, etc. Point of service meal counts must be reported and claimed for the building which the student is enrolled. While the point of service (in this case, meal distribution) is normally considered the location where meals are claimed in KN-CLAIM, the Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Meals permits meals to be served outside of the “normal/traditional cafeteria setting”, but as stated above meals must be associated back to the building the student is enrolled (or would have normally eaten if non-congregate meal service was not permitted).

Essential Resources

The *COVID-19 Waiver Summary for Child Nutrition Programs* resource provides information on how to apply for or extend waivers and can be accessed at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What’s New.

The *Navigating Change 2020* document provides considerations for Food Service and is posted at: <https://www.ksde.org/Teaching-Learning/Resources/Navigating-Change-Kansas-Guide-to-Learning-and-School-Safety-Operations>.

Safe Nutritious School Meals – Something You Can Count on for SY2020-2021

The School Nutrition Association has created a new marketing resource to help promote school meals to families as students head back to school. “Safe, Nutritious School Meals—Something You Can Count on for SY 2020-21” is a new sharable flyer that includes details and links to help reassure parents and the community that school meals continue to be a safe, nutritious choice to fuel student success during the 2020-2021 school year. You are encouraged to [download the flyer](#) to share with stakeholders along with details on your program—whether you are serving curbside, in the classroom, in the cafeteria or a combination of all three this year.

Cheryl, Jill and Julie



For more information, contact:

Cheryl S. Johnson
Director, Child Nutrition & Wellness
(785) 296-2276
www.kn-eat.org
csjohnson@ksde.org

Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.