

## Child Nutrition Programs: State Order and National Waiver Updates

The Ohio Department of Education received national and state updates this weekend that impact Ohio's meal service during the ordered school-building closure period. Please note the following information for local emergency feeding programs:

Earlier today, a [Stay at Home Order](#) was issued by Dr. Amy Acton, Director, Ohio Department of Health, to take effect March 23 - April 6. This order exempts certain persons from the order to stay at home and allows them to leave home or their place of residence to participate in certain Essential Businesses and Operations. Section 12(o) of the order specifies that one of these Essential Businesses and Operations includes schools that typically provide food service to students. The order allows schools to continue to provide such food services on a pickup or take away basis only, and as long as food is not permitted to be eaten at the site at which it is provided or at any other gathering site.

This provision also means that home and bus stop meal deliveries may continue for emergency feeding plans during the ordered school-building closure period. All educational institutions, including child nutrition program operators, should ensure that social distancing of six feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued three national child nutrition COVID-19 waivers on March 21:

1. [Non-congregate Feeding National Waiver](#) allows National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program sponsors to serve non-congregate meals.
2. [Meal Times Nationwide Waiver](#) suspends meal-time requirements and restrictions, allowing sponsors to provide multiple meals, such as breakfast and lunch, at the same time for up to one week, for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program.
3. [Afterschool Activity Waiver](#) applies to afterschool snacks in the National School Lunch Program and at-risk afterschool meals and snacks in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and waives the requirement for meal service in a structured and supervised setting with an educational or enrichment activity.

Please note that waivers are effective immediately and remain in effect through June 30, 2020, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

Additional information will be posted to the [Emergency Feeding Application Process for Schools and Sponsors](#) document on the [Supporting Whole Child Nutrition webpage](#) tomorrow, March 23.

If you have questions about Ohio's order or national waivers, please contact our office or your assigned education program specialist.

### Office of Integrated Student Supports

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