

To: All agencies and organizations sponsoring SFSP in the State of Indiana

From: Julie Sutton, Director of School and Community Nutrition

03/09/2020

Dear Food Service Contact,

This email provides news for schools concerning the Child Nutrition Programs from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE). If you are the food service contact for your school or corporation, it is your responsibility to relay important information provided to you about the Child Nutrition Programs to other staff members.

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### **Coronavirus Congregate Meals Waiver**

- USDA does allow meal service to children during school closures through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the National School Lunch Seamless Summer Option (SSO).
- Under normal circumstances, these meals are offered in a congregate setting and at non-school sites.
- However, during a public health emergency due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), social distancing may be necessary to avoid the spread of the virus.
- USDA is allowing States to request a waiver of the congregate meal requirement during school closures related to COVID-19. IDOE is applying for this waiver and as soon as we have news of approval, we will let schools know in our weekly newsletter.
- This waiver would allow for a Grab and Go meal service, in areas that meet the eligibility requirements of SFSP or SSO.
  - Grab and Go would limit participants' interaction and proximity to other participants and therefore decrease the risk of COVID-19 exposure.
- If you have not been on SFSP or SSO and are interested in applying, please contact us at [summermeals@doe.in.gov](mailto:summermeals@doe.in.gov).
- If you have additional questions regarding meal service during a school closure, please contact Julie Sutton at [jsutton@doe.in.gov](mailto:jsutton@doe.in.gov) or (317) 232-0845.

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CC: All Indiana SFSP sponsors  
USDA MWRO

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;*
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or*
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).*

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