


Louisiana Believes

LDOE Child Nutrition Program Operations During
COVID-19 - Update
March 23, 2020

Implications of Stay-At-Home Order

- A statewide “Stay at Home” order was issued 3/22/20 via Proclamation No. 33 JBE 2020
 - Differs from “Shelter in Place”
 - Essential activities are allowed (includes obtaining food)
 - Going to and from work to provide essential services is allowed
- Many districts have expressed concern about preserving employee health while continuing meal service to needy children.
- State agencies exploring many options to help facilitate/provide support



Food Service Operations Health and Safety Guidelines

Food Service Operation Recommendations

SFS 20-82 Food Service Operations During COVID-19

- 1. Food Service Operation Health Guidelines Template**
 - Recommended COVID-19 employee health procedures
 - Includes handwashing, employee temperature screening, social distancing, delivery, use of gloves, facility cleaning
- 2. Restaurant Information on COVID-19 (LDH)**
 - Additional guidance for food service employees
- 3. LDH Guidance for SFA Serving Non-Congregate Meals in Response to COVID-19**
 - Specific guidance for grab & go and delivered meals
 - Includes food temperatures, labeling, records to maintain

Food Service Operation Recommendations

1. [Public Health Emergency Response for Retail Store Managers](#) (LSU AgCenter)
 - Identification of high risk areas, disinfectant use
2. [Food Takeout and Delivery During a Public Health Emergency](#) (LSU AgCenter)
 - Recommendations for take-out (grab & go) and food delivery
3. [Food Safety & COVID-19 \(FDA\)](#)
 - Guidelines for infected employees, handling food, cleaning food service equipment



Continuing Meal Programs

Options to Continue Meal Programs

- Transition to weekly delivery of 10 meals/child/wk (2 meals/day X Mon-Fri)

Source: [USDA COVID-19 SFSP/SSO Q&A, Q.5](#)

- Partner with a local nonprofit such as a food bank
- Contract with a private vendor such as Aramark, SLA, Preferred Foods.
- Apply for the [Emergency Meals-to-You](#) program (eMTY)

Governor's Proclamations Related to Food Service Operations

All school systems may now contract food services to private companies:

Governor's Proclamation JBE 2020-25 (March 11, 2020 - April 9, 2020)

Section 4: Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:724(D)(I), the Louisiana Procurement Code (La. R.S. 39: 1551, et seq.) and Louisiana Public Bid Law (La. R.S. 38:2211, et seq.) and their corresponding rules and regulations are hereby suspended for the purpose of the procurement of any good or services necessary to respond to this emergency.

2 CFR 200.320(f) Methods of Procurement to be Followed

The non-Federal entity must use one of the following methods of procurement. (f) Procurement by noncompetitive proposals. Procurement by noncompetitive proposals is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply: (1) The item is available only from a single source; (2) The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation;

Governor's Proclamations Related to Food Service Operations

Governor's Proclamation JBE 2020-32 (March 19, 2020 - April 13, 2020)

Section 1 (L): The provisions of La R.S. 17:194(B) are hereby suspended to allow for the school districts to have greater flexibility for administration of a nutrition program for students affected by this emergency.

LA R.S. 17:194(B): *"However, no state appropriated funds shall be disbursed for the support of any nutrition program which shall be used by any private person, enterprise, concern, or other entity for profit, regardless of any authority in federal or state law for contracting with such a private supplier or provider of nutrition programs"*

USDA SSO/SFSP Meal Delivery Q&A

1. Can schools deliver meals directly to students' homes?

Yes for school systems,, including those working with other organizations

2. Is funding available for meal delivery? No

3. Who is eligible for home-delivered meals? Schools operating open sites may deliver to all children in it's eligible area (attendance zone)

4. What are the requirements for initiating home delivery? Written consent must be obtained from child's parent/guardian. School system must make initial contact.

Parents must be notified that their info may be shared.

USDA SSO/SFSP Meal Delivery Q&A

1. How many meals may delivered per child, at one time? **2 meals/day for 1 week**
2. Do home delivered meals need to be shelf-stable?
No. Health/safety rules must be followed.
3. Does the child need to be present for delivery? **No.**
4. Children from one household in multiple schools: can one school deliver? **Yes**

Emergency Meals-to-You (E-MTY)

- Partnership between E-MTY and [Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty](#) that matches SFAs with vendors that can ship meals directly to children
- E-MTY vendor will ship box of 5 breakfasts & 5 lunches to eligible children (CEP or F/R)
- SFAs must complete an application with [Meals to You](#) and send to LDOE for review
- Baylor University approves application, matches SFA with vendor, assists with contract negotiation between vendor and SFA
- Families enroll
- There is no cost for the SFA to partner with Baylor Collaborative

mealstoyou.org

LDOE is working with Baylor to determine whether this process can be streamlined given the need across the state. We will send out more information on this process as soon as possible. In the meantime, we strongly encourage districts to submit an application. All school systems in Louisiana -- rural and non-rural -- are eligible given the circumstances.



Waiver and Flexibilities

Approved Waivers

1. **National:** [Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding in the CNPs](#)
2. **National:** [Waiver of Activity Requirements in Afterschool Care for CNPs](#)
3. **National:** [Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility in the CNPs](#)
4. **Louisiana:** [Waiver to Allow Alternate Feeding Methods \(Meal Delivery\)](#)

Allowance of Non-Congregate Feeding

Applies to: All Child Nutrition Programs

Waives: Requirement that CNP meals must be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed onsite

Allows: Meals to be taken/consumed off site

Duration: 6/30/20 or expiration of federal declared public health emergency

Implementation: Indicate “Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver” in sponsor comments sections of SSO & SFSP

Allowance of Meal Service Time Flexibility

Applies to: All Child Nutrition Programs

Waives: Meals served between 10am - 2pm (NSLP)
Additional regulations about meal service duration and length of time between meal services across other CNPs

Allows: Multiple meals to be issued simultaneously for off-site consumption

Duration: 6/30/20 or expiration of federal declared public health emergency

Implementation: Indicate “Meal Service Time Waiver” in sponsor comments sections of SSO, SFSP or CACFP site application

Waiver of Activity Requirements in Afterschool Care

Applies to: CACFP

Waives: Requirement that schools and centers serve afterschool meals and snacks in a structured and supervised environment, with an educational or enrichment activity.

Allows: Meals to be served in settings with no educational/enrichment activity

Duration: 6/30/20 or expiration of federal declared public health emergency

Implementation: Indicate “Activity Requirements Waiver” in sponsor comments sections of CACFP application

Alternate Feeding Method/Delivery of Meals

Applies to: NSLP (SSO), SFSP

Allows: Meals to be delivered

Duration: 6/30/20 or expiration of federal declared public health emergency

Implementation: Indicate “Meal Delivery” in sponsor comments sections of SSO or SFSP site application

Additional Submitted Waivers

(NOT Currently Approved)

1. Louisiana: [Meal Pattern Waiver](#)
2. Louisiana: [Administrative Review Desk Audit Waiver](#)
3. Louisiana: [Delay of CEP Statutory Reporting Deadline](#)

Meal Pattern Waiver

(NOT currently approved)

Application For: All CNPs

Would Waive: Requirement that all components of the meal pattern must be offered, when sponsor is experiencing shortages in certain meal components.

Anticipated Implementation Steps:

Indicate “Meal Pattern Waiver” in sponsor comments sections of SSO or SFSP application

Administrative Review Desk Audit Waiver

(NOT currently approved)

State Agency Waiver (SFAs do not apply)

Application For: NSLP/SBP

Would Waive: Onsite portion of Administrative Review

Would Allow: Remainder of ARs scheduled for 2019-2020 to be completed as desk audits

Delay of CEP Reporting Deadline Waiver

(NOT currently approved)

State Agency Waiver (SFAs do not apply)

Application For: NSLP/SBP

Would Waive: April 15th reporting deadline for SFAs to submit CEP data

Would Allow: June 30th reporting deadline for SFAs to submit CEP data

Additional Information

Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)

Families First Coronavirus Act of 2020 allows state agencies to apply for use of P-EBT benefits

Free/reduced children attending a school closed for at least 5 consecutive days are eligible

Households receive the value of lunch and breakfast at the free reimbursement rate for each eligible child in the household, multiplied by the average number of days school was cancelled in the month.

2019-20 Reimbursement Rates:

Free Breakfast: \$2.20 or \$1.84

Free Lunch: \$3.50

SSO Application & Claim

[SSO Application Instructions](#)

SSO Application Revisions:

As sites open, close or have additional changes, revise the SSO application

[SFS 20-85 Meal Claims for Seamless Summer](#) (Claim Instructions)

Additional Updates

- All SFS trainings canceled
- [Louisiana Believes](#)
 - Check meal finder map for errors
(COVID-19 FAQ: K-12 Schools)

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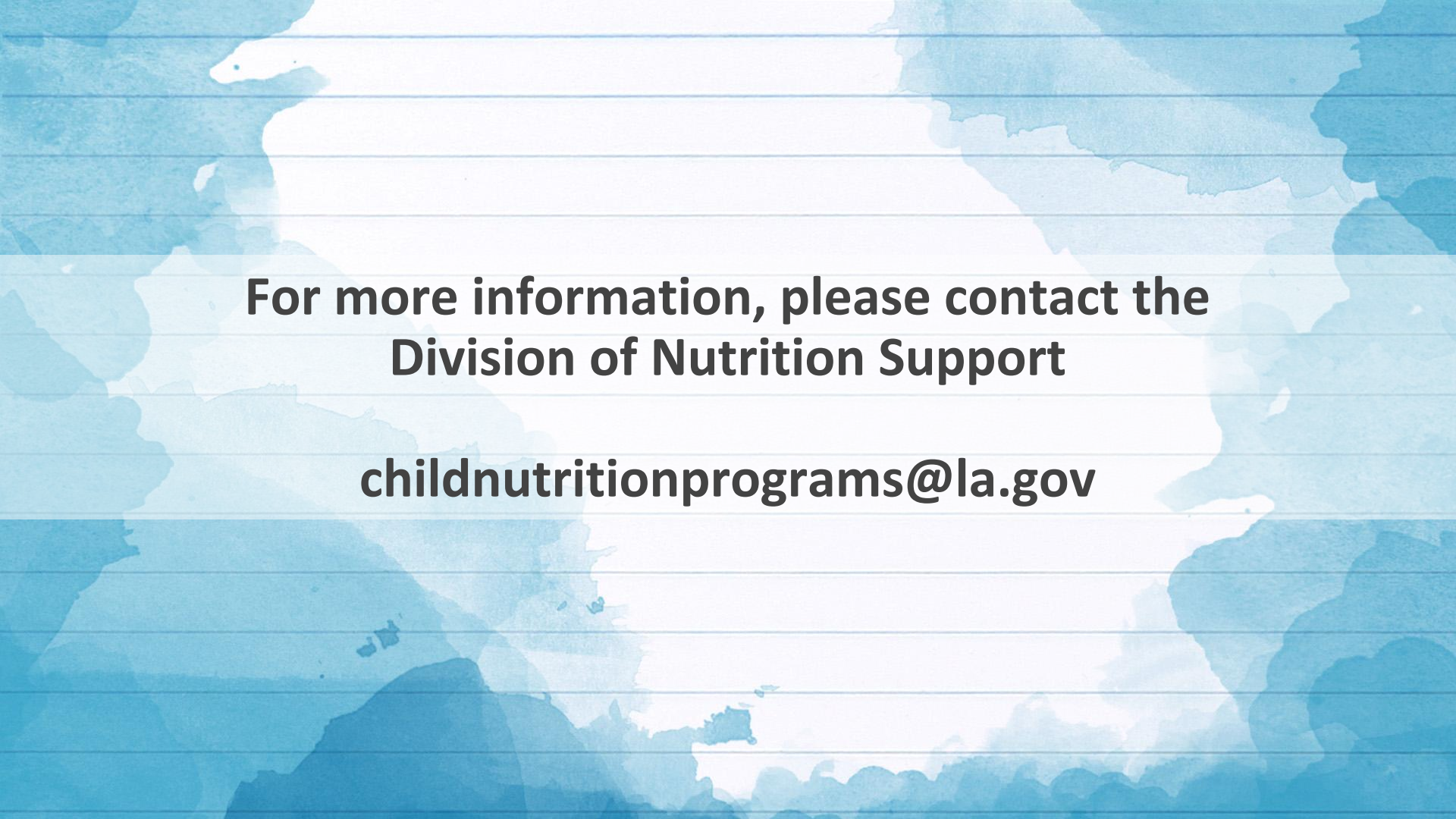
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