



Child Nutrition Program Flexibilities During COVID-19

The following is designed to summarize the guidance and flexibilities for School Nutrition Programs (SNP) operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Operators during COVID-19 school closures or site dismissals. For more information, refer to the California Department of Education (CDE) School and Child and Adult Day Care Meals COVID-19 guidance web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/schoolmeals.asp>.

Flexibilities for SNP and SFSP Operators

Options for Providing Meals During School Closures

Schools or other community organizations previously approved to operate the **SSO or SFSP** can request approval to operate the SSO or SFSP and serve noncongregate meals by submitting a request to the CDE at SNPINFO@cde.ca.gov.

After receiving CDE approval to operate noncongregate feeding sites, program operators need to submit SSO or SFSP site applications in the Child Nutrition Information and Payment System (CNIPS) as soon as possible.

Area Eligibility

This waiver allows SSO and SFSP operators to serve meals at sites that are not area eligible (where at least 50 percent of participants are eligible for free or reduced-price [F/RP] meals). If a program operator wishes to operate an open SFSP or SSO meal site located in an area that does not meet a minimum 50 percent of children that are eligible for F/RP meals, they must submit an SSO or SFSP site application in the CNIPS as well as complete the Area Eligibility Waiver application located at <https://surveys2.cde.ca.gov/go/cnpareaeligibilitywaiver.asp>.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Deadlines

This waiver allows sponsors applying to operate the CEP for school year 2020–21, the option to use data from any point in time between April 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020 to calculate the identified student percentage. The annual deadline to apply for CEP has also been extended from June 30, 2020 to August 31, 2020.

Flexibilities for CACFP Operators

Meal Service Time Flexibility, Noncongregate Feeding, Afterschool Activities

To minimize the frequency of pick-up for families and to promote social distancing, **CACFP Operators** may request waivers for meal service time flexibility, noncongregate feeding, and afterschool activities by completing the CDE Application for COVID-19 CACFP Agency Waivers at <https://surveys2.cde.ca.gov/go/cacfpCOVIDwaivers.asp>.

Flexibilities for All Child Nutrition Program Operators

Meal Pattern Flexibility

All Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Operators may request a meal pattern requirements waiver if they are unable to serve certain menu requirements due to disruptions in the availability of food or other impacts of COVID-19 by completing the online Meal Pattern Waiver Application at <https://surveys2.cde.ca.gov/go/mealpatterncovidwaivers.asp>. CNP Operators may email CNPMealPatternWaiver@cde.ca.gov with additional questions regarding meal pattern requirements.

Parent Meal Pick-up

CNP Operators may distribute meals to parents or guardians without the child being present. To participate in this waiver, CNP Operators must have an approved noncongregate feeding waiver. There are no additional requirements to notify the CDE that the waiver has been implemented. However, program operators must have a written plan or procedure in place, retain accurate records of the meals served, and report to the CDE at the conclusion of the COVID-19 emergency feeding. This waiver is not mandatory.

Distribution of Meals

With CDE approval, CNP Operators that have the capacity to meet the food safety requirements can distribute shelf-stable meals for multiple days, up to one week at a time to children to limit exposure as much as possible. For approval, SNP and SFSP Operators must send an email to SNPINFO@cde.ca.gov; CACFP Operators must send an email to CACFPWAIVER@cde.ca.gov.

Home Meal Delivery

CNP Operators that have been approved for noncongregate feeding may deliver meals directly to participants' homes with CDE approval. This practice is optional and requires prior written consent from households of eligible participants. This consent can be obtained through email or other electronic means. CNP Operators that choose to use this option may only deliver meals to enrolled participants due to confidentiality regulations.

Onsite Monitoring Requirement

In order to accommodate social distancing while maintaining program integrity, CNP Operators may perform their monitoring site activities offsite, e.g., desk audit, video visits. To participate in this waiver, CNP Operators must complete the streamlined online CNP Monitoring Flexibility Waiver Application at <https://surveys2.cde.ca.gov/go/cnpmonitoringwaiver.asp>.

60 Day Reporting Requirement

This waiver extends program operators' deadline for submitting January and February 2020 claims by 30 calendar days from their original required date of submission. This waiver only applies for claims covering operations in the months of January and February 2020 and is effective immediately.

Have additional questions?

SNP and SFSP Operators can contact SNPINFO@cde.ca.gov
CACFP Operators can contact CACFPWAIVER@cde.ca.gov