

Practical Strategies for Helping New Yorkers Not Go Hungry

Without any Additional Costs to New York City

Findings and Observations

- **During the COVID-19 shut down last spring, NYC-DOE spent \$70 million less for the Federal School Breakfast and Lunch meals than in the prior school year:** When the COVID Crisis forced all schools to shut down, the New York City Department of Education (NYC-DOE) switched over to a Grab and Go meals pick up system beginning on March 23. Any child regardless of income was entitled to the free grab and go meals. For the months of April, May and June, the NYC-DOE School Breakfast and Lunch program spent around \$66.7 million. During the same three month period in school year 2018-19, the NYC-DOE spent \$136.8 million. A drop of \$70 million. The NYC-DOE is entitled to these Federal dollars through its participation in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program.¹ The drop in reimbursement income is based solely on the fact that fewer meals were being served.

NYC-DOE Free School Breakfast and Lunch Programs	Federal/State Payments April to June 2019 ²	Federal/State Payments April to June 2020 ³	Dollars Not Spent
School Lunch Program	\$103,375,916	\$66,758,282	
School Breakfast Program	\$30,967,486		
Snacks	\$2,495,045		
Total	\$136,838,447	\$66,758,282.00	\$70,080,165.

Source: [New York State Education Department Child Nutrition Management](#).

- **While most school districts across the country also saw a drop in meals distributed, 20% were able to give out the same number meals or even an increase.** Last March, City Hall and NYC-DOE undertook a herculean effort to transform its Universal Free School Breakfast and Lunch program, served in over 1,900 district, charter and private schools, into a COVID-19 precautions “Grab and Go” program. Under emergency conditions, the City put together a meals access program within a week so that no child would go hungry. NYC was by no means alone in experiencing a significant drop in the number of meals served daily during the COVID-19 schools shut down. According to a survey conducted last May by the School Nutrition Association (SNA) involving 1,800 school districts, 80% saw a drop in meals. However, the NYC-DOE drop was steep at 52%. The big question now is what can be done differently going forward. The same meals participation challenges for the NYC-DOE Grab and Go model are present with the 2020-21 school year reopening⁴.

¹ The School Breakfast and Lunch Program is administered by the New York State Education Department-Child Nutrition (NYSED-CN).

² Almost all reimbursement is from the Federal Government. Lunch is reimbursed at \$3.50 and breakfast at 42.20. NYSED provides a small reimbursement of .06 per meal.

³ This column is for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). SFSP includes both School Free Breakfast and Lunch Program. NYC-DOE started the Grab and Go program on March 23. If the last week of March was to be included in the analysis, then there was around \$5 million more in unspent dollars or a total of \$75 million. SFSP is also administered by NYSED-CN.

⁴ The NYC-DOE Office of Food and Nutrition Services also provides breakfast and lunch meals to charter and private schools.

- **Last spring, the NYC-DOE Grab and Go program was serving meals to only about 15% to 20% of the potential number of 820,000 low income NYC children.** A starting place for determining how many children are (and are not) participating in the NYC-DOE Grab and Go program is a reliable estimate of need. The number of children that may rely on Grab and Go is far larger than the low income children enrolled in NYC-DOE schools. In 2018, NYC-DOE School Food program reported a total of 685,509 children residing in SNAP/Medicaid/TANF households for the mandatory CEP reporting. This figure covers grades PreK to 12; it does not include preschool children ages 0 to 3. COVID-19 also forced the shutdown of all NYC-Department of Health regulated Article 47 licensed child care programs (ages 0 to 5); of which many daily served a free meal through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) program. The potential demand figure must also include this group of low income preschool children. The estimate is 140,000 additional children. The total potential demand is around 820,000 low income children ages 1 to 18. 820,000 children x 2 meals per day = 1,640,000 meals a day. According to the Mayor’s Office, the NYC-DOE Grab and Go program was serving around 250,000 meals daily last April⁵; therefore the NYC-DOE was serving meals to 15% to 20% of the potential number of 820,000 low income NYC children. This 15% to 20% figure is comparable to the nationwide figure. A September 2020 Policy Alert from the Brookings Institute found that “between 13 and 17 percent of households with incomes below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level reported that they received a free meal from school or from a program directed to children between April and July”.⁶

- **If all low income students participate in the NYC-DOE school food program, the City will be spending around \$81 million per month in Federal dollars on providing a free breakfast, lunch and snack.** According to the NYC-DOE Title I Poverty data, a total of 623,979 students resided in low income households in 2020 (defined as 130% of the Federal Poverty Level)⁷. As a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and NYSED approved Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school district, with all children eligible for a free breakfast and lunch, NYC-DOE can serve free meals to not only low income families but all public school children including all newly poor families due to the COVID-19 economic downturn. Last spring, during the COVID-19 schools shut down, the DOE was spending an average of \$21.6 million per month. If the DOE continues with serving cold sandwiches for its Grab and Go program, it’s fair to assume meals participation will be similar to last spring and **\$60 million per month will go unspent in Federal dollars available to NYC-DOE.**⁸ If the NYC-DOE would spend down the other \$60 million per month, several hundred thousand more food insecure families will be helped. Also, City Hall could rely less on using tax levy or CARES Act dollars meet the hunger crisis. There are other urgent needs that these dollars could be spent on.

Here’s the good news! There is a slam dunk solution that can be implemented right now, to help kids and families get the food they need, without using City Tax Levy or CARES Act dollars.

- **NYC-DOE can give hungry families a full box of healthy food staples once a week instead of the current practice of families having to show up daily to pick up three meals.** When COVID-19 shut down the schools last March, the US Department of Agriculture-Food and Nutrition Services (USDA-FNS) and the New York Education Department-Child Nutrition quickly jumped in and modified the main regulations giving school districts the flexibility they needed to continue to provide nutritious meals to children. One of the most [important rule](#)

⁵ According to the Mayor’s Office, the NYC-DOE grab and go program was serving 250,000 meals daily in April. This figure included adults. The estimate here is based on 350,000 meals served daily to children only based on the assumption that meal participation increased in May and June.

⁶ [Why extend Pandemic EBT? When schools are closed, many fewer eligible children receive meals. By Lauren Bauer and Jana Parsons. Brookings Institute. Sept. 21, 2020.](#)

⁷ New York City Department of Education School Allocation Memo 08. FY 2021

⁸ NYC-DOE is a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) universal free meals school district. It has the legal authority to serve as many meals as there is demand for. Due to the COVID-19 recession, thousands of newly poor families can also benefit.

[modifications](#) allows families to pick up enough food to last for 5 or 7 days. So instead of having to make the daily trip, and worry about becoming ill from COVID-19, a family could make one or two trips each week. California saw the urgency and issued guidance on how its school districts could convert from individually prepared meals to bulk food packages. “**Examples of items that CNP Operators can provide in bulk include bags of rice and pasta, loaves of bread, jars of peanut butter, boxes of chicken nuggets, blocks of cheese or bags of shredded cheese, containers of hummus, gallons of milk, broccoli heads, bags of lettuce, bags of baby carrots, and canned fruit**”.⁹ The USDA-FNS issued similar guidance last spring.¹⁰

- **The bulk food box/bag of groceries option gives families a weekly amount of food staples so that they can prepare meals the way their children like and maintain their dignity.** Here’s a simple question to ask: which food program will parents and kids want? to go and pick daily from the same group of cold sandwiches OR eat home cooked meals based on family preferences/recipes. Here is what happened with the school free lunch program in Prince William County in Virginia: “So the district pivoted to offering a grocery-style service instead. Now families can stop by a pickup site just twice a week and receive bags of ingredients that can be used to make their own meals and snacks. With the district supplying raw ingredients, it’s up to families to decide how to put them on the menu.” The Bulk food option is increasing participation; equally important, it help families maintain their dignity in these challenging times. Families that prefer the DOE prepared meals will still be able to pick them up; but now they will have a choice.
- **Other large school districts switched over to a “multiple meals” pick up system where families can pick up a supply of meals lasting four to seven days:** The NYC-DOE ‘grab and go’ meals program offers families a daily pick up of three meals per child. This means families have had to make a daily trip to a DOE school Grab and Go site for the free meals. There is another way that may significantly increase participation. There are other school districts that used the Federal USDA-FNS waiver that allows families to make one trip and pick up meals covering five to seven days; examples of these school districts include San Francisco, Orlando, Oakland, Albuquerque, Minneapolis, Houston, Dallas, Charleston WV, and St. Paul and Prince William County in Virginia. As shown in section 4 of this Report, all of these schools districts widely publicize the availability of multiple meals pick up.



MAIN RECOMMENDATION: Give families a choice by launching a bulk food staples pickup lasting 5 days a week pilot program: With NYC-DOE schools going on a hybrid schedule with one or two days of in person learning, and around 70% of NYC-DOE students now receiving full remote education, children that rely on the National School Free Breakfast and Lunch program will continue to get all or most of their meals through the “**Grab and Go**” daily pick up program. As the largest school food program in the country, the NYC-DOE Office of Food and Nutrition Services can certainly launch a bulk food package option either as a pilot or regular program option for five days of meals. Kids will no longer have the same old menu of cold sandwiches to choose from week after week. The DOE doesn’t have to start from scratch; it can use its fully vetted food supply vendors to prepare the bulk food packages. Also, the bulk food option should be first launched in the most food scarce neighborhoods where the pantries cannot keep up with demand. *Food Bank for New York City* published a report in June showing which neighborhoods have been most adversely affected by COVID-19 with food shortages.¹¹ The City can launch the bulk food packages option tomorrow; it doesn’t need to ask for permission or for more money from Albany/Washington or change any regulations.

⁹ <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/documents/bulkfoodsfactsheet.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.cn.nysed.gov/content/providing-multiple-meals-time-during-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic>

¹¹ https://1giggs400j4830k22r3m4wqg-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/Fighting-More-Than-Covid-19_Research-Report_Food-Bank-For-New-York-City_6.09.20_web.pdf

1. Background

As the COVID-19 Crisis rapidly took hold in early March, City Hall and NYC-Department of Education-Office of School Food and Nutrition were faced with numerous emergency decisions; one of the biggest was how to continue to feed the 600,000 children that relied on the free breakfast and lunch program. Within a week, City Hall and the NYC-DOE launched a herculean plan to transform the Universal Free School Breakfast and Lunch program, served in over 1,800 schools, into a COVID-19 precautions “Grab and Go” program. The DOE “Grab and Go” program ensured that all NYC children would continue to have the same daily access to nutrition. NYC-DOE Office of Food and Nutrition Services workers rose to the COVID-19 challenges, came to work every day during the grimmest month of April, made the meals and helped with the massive 400 site distribution. Federal reimbursement for the School Breakfast and Lunch program is strictly based on meals served to children up to 18 years of age. During the initial 3 months of the COVID Crisis, the City spent and received \$70 million less in reimbursement than in the prior year. Was this inevitable? ***Will the City run same Grab and Go program again this fall when schools reopen? Will multiple meals/bulk food packages and menu diversity increase participation? If the City doesn't do anything different from last spring, its highly likely that by the end of school year 2020-21, another \$200 million in Federal dollars will go unspent¹².***

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Crisis, there has been extensive media coverage of the nutrition crisis affecting at least 2 million New Yorkers. Here are excerpts from three stories that together offer a picture of the challenges and how NYC government and the network of anti-hunger organizations were able to respond.

In New York City, still the hardest hit part of the country, some 2 million residents — 1 in 4 — are food insecure, according to an estimate Mayor Bill de Blasio shared at a press briefing in late May. Already, by mid-April, after just a few weeks of quarantine, 38 percent of parents in New York City reported cutting the size of meals or skipping meals for their children because they did not have enough money for food in the previous month, according to [survey](#) Hunger Free America released at the time. The survey also found that 34 percent of adults in New York City skipped meals or cut their portions because they didn't have enough money for food.

THE CITY GOVERNMENT, already a huge provider of food, has dramatically amped up its food distribution to respond to the crisis. In March, de Blasio named Kathryn Garcia the city's [Covid-19 food czar](#) to manage the effort. And in April, he announced a [\\$170 million emergency plan](#) to combat hunger, which has involved opening more than 400 [food hubs](#) where any New Yorker can get food. Taxi and Uber drivers help [deliver the food](#). The city has expanded its Office of Food and Nutrition Services, which serves 850,000 meals a day to New York City public school students, making it second only to the U.S. military as the nation's biggest food procurer. Now that office is feeding both students and their parents. **Source:**<https://theintercept.com/2020/06/16/coronavirus-hunger-crisis-nyc/>

The week after schools shut down, the city Department of Education set up its meal hubs, opening them to adults 11 days later on April 3. According to the mayor's office, they are currently providing 200,000 meals a day, which can be picked up at **more than 400 schools** across the city by anyone who needs them; New Yorkers can receive as many as three meals at once for both themselves and their children, and vegetarian and halal options are available.

Utilizing school cafeteria facilities, and workers, that otherwise would have been idle was a smart move, says Accles. “School food has really unmatched operational ability, serving 900,000 meals a day — that's pretty amazing,” she says. “Part of the challenge of this illness is that people are supposed to stay home and be as little exposed as possible. The fact that there are 400-some-odd school buildings that are open and prepared to give three meals a day to each person in a household, that's no small thing.” Of course, this means 700,000 fewer meals are being served than on a normal school day. Even if many students are able to get sufficient food at home — **New York has had universal free lunch since 2017** — that still could be leaving many families that normally rely on school meals without sufficient food access, especially if they aren't able to easily access a meal hub near them.¹³

¹² The \$200 million figure is based only on a comparison with prior year spending. The COVID-19 Crisis has caused hundreds of thousands of families to become food insecure. If the NYC-DOE meals program was reaching all low income families with children, it would be spending around \$80 million per month. Unless changes are made, another potential \$600 million will go unspent by June 30, 2021.

¹³ <https://citylimits.org/2020/04/14/citys-food-programs-trying-to-keep-up-with-demand-amid-federal-uncertainties/>

2. New York State Education Department Child Nutrition Reimbursement data shows that NYC left at least \$70 million unspent during Covid-19 Crisis period of last April to June.

In the chart below, the New York State Education Department-Child Nutrition (NYSED-CN) data shows that during the COVID-19 schools shut down period of April 1 to June 30, the NYC-DOE Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) requested reimbursement for a total of \$66.7 million in Federal Reimbursement dollars for its “Grab and Go” Free Breakfast and Lunch Program. In the prior school year, 2018-2019, during the same months of April to June, the NYC-DOE spent around \$136.8 million¹⁴. A difference of \$70 million. These are dollars NYC is entitled to based on student income eligibility to participate in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. Using Federal dollars, NYSED-Child Nutrition can only reimburse a school district (formally known as a School Food Authority or SFA) for each meal served (for breakfast, lunch or snacks).

NYC-DOE Free School Breakfast and Lunch Programs	Federal/State Payments April to June 2019 ¹⁵	Federal/State Payments April to June 2020 ¹⁶	Dollars Not Spent
School Lunch Program	\$103,375,916	\$66,758,282	70,080,165.
School Breakfast Program	\$30,967,486		
Snacks	\$2,495,045		
Total	\$136,838,447	\$66,758,282.	

Source: [New York State Education Department Child Nutrition Management](#).

What happened to the NYC-DOE Grab and Go meals child participation rate? The NYC-DOE saw a drop of 52% in the amount of money requested for meals reimbursement from same period (April to June 30) last year. Below is analysis of the drop in the School Free Breakfast and Lunch meals participation rate during the COVID-19 schools shut down:

- **Last spring, the NYC-DOE Grab and Go program was serving meals to about 15% to 20% of the potential number of 820,000 low income NYC children.** A starting place for determining how many children are and are not participating in the NYC-DOE Grab and Go program is a reliable estimate of need. The number of children that may rely on Grab and Go is far larger than the low-income children enrolled in NYC-DOE schools. In 2018, NYC-DOE

¹⁴ When COVID-19 forced schools to shut down, all school districts were required to switch over to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO). For every School Food Authority or SFA, the **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** is reported by NYSED in one combined amount including breakfast, lunch and snack programs. The NYSED school reimbursement from last year corresponds almost exactly to the revenue figure in the NYC-Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Supporting Schedules Budget for FY 2020. In FY 2020, the NYC-DOE received a total \$570 million from the Federal Government to operate the School Free Breakfast and Lunch Program (also includes afternoon snacks).

¹⁵ Almost all reimbursement is from the Federal Government. Lunch is reimbursed at \$3.50 and breakfast at \$2.20. NYS provides a small reimbursement of .06 per meal.

¹⁶ This column is for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). SFSP includes both School Free Breakfast, Lunch and Snacks Program. NYC-DOE started the Grab and Go program on March 23. If the last week of March was to be included in the analysis, then there was around \$4.5 million more in unspent dollars or a total of around \$75 million.

School Food program reported a total of 685,509 children residing in SNAP/Medicaid/TANF households for the mandatory Federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) reporting requirement¹⁷. This figure covers grades PreK to 12; it does not include preschool children ages 0 to 3. COVID-19 also forced the shutdown of all NYC-Department of Health regulated Article 47 licensed child care programs (ages 0 to 5); of which many served a free meal through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) program. The actual potential demand figure must also include this group of low income preschool children. The estimate is 140,000 additional children. The total potential demand is around 820,000 low income children ages 1 to 18. 820,000 children x 2 meals per day = 1,640,000 meals a day. The NYC-DOE Grab and Go program was serving meals to about 15% to 20% of the potential number of 820,000 low income NYC children. This 15% to 20% figure is comparable to the nationwide figure. A September 2020 Policy Alert from the Brookings Institute found that “between 13 and 17 percent of households with incomes below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level reported that they received a free meal from school or from a program directed to children between April and July”.¹⁸

- **Across the country, most school districts also saw a drop in meals served.** According to a survey conducted by the School Nutrition Association (SNA) last May, which included 1,894 school districts respondents, 80% of school districts saw a decrease in meals distributed; another 9% saw the same rate and 11% actually saw an increase in meal production and distribution.¹⁹ However, the range of the decrease in meals served was significant. At least 12% of surveyed school districts only experienced a mild drop of less than 25% meals served. When totaled together, around 32% of school districts were able to have a modest drop, same number or even increase number of meals served.
- **Geographic accessibility to school pick up sites was strong:** The NYC-DOE did an excellent job of making sure that school distribution sites were located in high need NYC neighborhoods. According to an NYC-Independent Budget Organization (IBO) report²⁰, “more than half the sites—about 54 percent—were located in census tracts where the average household income was below or near the poverty threshold ”. The majority of students, 88 percent, lived within half a mile of a Grab & Go site. The median distance to a Grab & Go site was five blocks from a student’s home.
- **When will the Mayor’s Office and NYC-DOE issue a report on its Grab and Go school meals program:** Last April, a month into the NYC-DOE Grab and Go meals, the Mayor’s Office Report showed that DOE Grab and Go program was serving around 250,000 meals per day (which included both adults and children)²¹. Despite the huge importance of the Grab and Go program for keeping children fed during COVID-19, six months later, the NYC-DOE has yet to issue any progress report. A big unanswered question is how much did menu fatigue factor into the low participation rate.

The sooner the bulk food packages option is launched, the sooner we won’t have to see anymore headlines like the one below.

Hungry New Yorkers form quarter-mile line for free food in Queens

[August 23, 2020 NY Post:](#)

¹⁷ NYC-DOE FOIL Letter to the author.

¹⁸ [Why extend Pandemic EBT? When schools are closed, many fewer eligible children receive meals. By Lauren Bauer and Jana Parsons. Brookings Institute. Sept. 21, 2020.](#)

¹⁹ https://schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/11COVID-19/3_Webinar_Series_and_Other_Resources/COVID-19-Impact-on-School-Nutrition-Programs-Part2.pdf

²⁰ <https://ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/food-to-go-did-nyc-open-grab-and-go-sites-in-areas-with-the-greatest-need-schools-brief-july-2020.pdf>

²¹ **FEEDING NEW YORK** The Plan for Keeping Our City Fed During the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis. April 2020.

3. The United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services (USDA-FNS) issued 12 pages of guidance showing school districts how to convert their daily meals program into giving families 5 to 7 days of multiple meals/bulk food packages per pickup.

When COVID-19 forced schools around the country to shut down, the USDA Quickly stepped up and issued a series of waivers so that school districts could continue to provide low income families with grab and go meals so there wouldn't be any gaps. One of the USDA COVID-19 [waivers](#) allows school districts to serve multiple meals to reduce the number of trips and possible COVID-19 transmission. To make sure that school districts would be able to get the most use from this waiver, USDA also prepared 11 pages of guidance (see cover page below) for both the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). The guidance encourages school districts to consider offering multiple meals (where families can pick up 5 days worth of meals with one trip). It also offers illustrated examples showing how bulk food packages/boxes could be counted as individual meals for USDA reimbursement. The guidance is also posted in the NYSED-Child Nutrition website.



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Summer Food Service Program: Providing Multiple Meals at a Time During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working with State Child Nutrition agencies to provide safe and flexible meal service to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. Under nationwide non-congregate feeding and meal times waivers, State agencies may allow Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) operators to provide more than 1 day's worth of meals to eligible children via a single meal pick-up (by the child or the child's parent or guardian) or delivery.^{1,2} For example, a summer meal site may distribute 5 days of meals on Monday morning, providing children with breakfast and lunch for the week.

What Meals and Snacks Can Program Operators Claim for Reimbursement per Child, per Day?

- Breakfast and lunch;
- Breakfast and snack;
- Lunch and snack;
- Breakfast and supper;
- Two snacks; or
- Supper and snack.

What Should Program Operators Consider When Deciding How Many Days of Meals To Provide at a Time?

- How long foods may be safely stored before eating.
- How long foods can be stored before food quality suffers.
- Participants' access to refrigeration and freezer space for the amounts of food and milk provided.
- Food storage space at the summer site and on meal delivery vehicles (such as buses or food trucks).
- Whether fewer pick-up days and times will decrease access to meals for some children.



<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>

¹Nationwide Waiver To Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs, COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #1, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/covid-19-meal-times-nationwide-waiver>.

²Nationwide Waiver To Allow Non-Congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs, COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #2, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/covid-19/non-congregate-feeding-nationwide-waiver>.

FNS-869 June 2020 | USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Page 1

4. School Districts in other parts of the country have been providing families with multiple meals/bulk food packages that last five days.

During the first few weeks of COVID-19 crisis, with schools closing throughout the country, the USDA issued numerous waivers allowing school districts flexibility to continue to provide children with free breakfast and lunches²². One waiver allows school districts to provide multiple meals, **bulk packages pick up** and even home delivery. There are two big advantages to bulk food packages. A family only has to pick up their meals once every five or seven days instead of daily. This practice allows families to get the food they need with dignity; it may also significantly increase participation in the school district Grab and Go program nationwide. This was the experience of Minneapolis Public Schools:

Some resourceful districts are finding ways to stanch the bleeding. “Between March 17 and 27, we served 40,000 meals. That’s about what I used to serve in *one* day,” explains Bertrand Weber, Director of Culinary and Wellness Services, **Minneapolis (Minn.) Public Schools**. But as Weber and his team pivoted to centralized food production, a decrease in the total number of meal pick-up sites and providing all of the week’s meals in a single bulk “box,” they found their meal counts increasing. “We’re now averaging between 41,000 and 45,000 meals per day. We’re actually *above* our average,” says Weber. “Until we made the switch with meal boxes, our initial projection was that we were going to run out of fund balance by the second week of June.”²³ **School districts around the country are trying new strategies:** including using buses to deliver meals along bus routes and partnering with community food pantries/food banks for more robust offerings. The most important new strategy, which was encouraged by the United States Department of Agriculture-Food Nutrition Services, was multiple meals/bulk food packages (see section 2).

- **A bulk food option means that insecure families will still keep their dignity and self-worth:** There is another important difference between offering families bulk food boxes/packages instead of grab and go sandwiches or even meals. This option helps preserve the dignity and self-worth of the parents and children that depend on the School Breakfast and Lunch program. A box or bag filled rice, pasta, beans, tomato sauce, milk, fresh vegetables and fruit is a vastly different offering from picking up sandwiches for a weeks worth of meals. A family can now cook the food as they best desire. With the free bulk food packages, parents can still go to the store and afford some meat/fish/chicken to prepare the meals for their children (a family can receive both SNAP benefits and Free School Meals). The **California Education Department** guidance to its school districts is very clear:

Question 6—What are examples of bulk items that we can send home?

Examples of items that CNP Operators can provide in bulk include bags of rice and pasta, loaves of bread, jars of peanut butter, boxes of chicken nuggets, blocks of cheese or bags of shredded cheese, containers of hummus, gallons of milk, broccoli heads, bags of lettuce, bags of baby carrots, and canned fruit. ²⁴

Large and small school districts across the country have been offering multiple meals/bulk packages since April of the COVID-19 shut down. On the next four pages, are cut and paste examples from the websites of the following school districts: San Francisco, California, Orlando, Fla, Charlestown West Virginia, Minneapolis and St. Paul Minnesota, Dallas and Houston, Texas, Albuquerque, NM and Prince William County, Virginia. The relevant language is shaded in yellow:

²² <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/strategies-and-challenges-feeding-out-school-students>

²³ https://schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/11COVID-19/3_Webinar_Series_and_Other_Resources/COVID-19-The-Financial-Blows-of-COVID-19.pdf

²⁴ <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/documents/bulkfoodsfactsheet.pdf>

Prince William County Public Schools Virginia



Prince William County Public Schools will continue to prepare and serve food through the first quarter at 56 feeding sites. During the first week of school, PWCS served 13,000 students on September 8, and 21,000 students on September 10. **More than 320,000 meal equivalents were served for the week.**

Grocery supplements may be picked up by walking up to the sites, or by driving up, which is preferred. Parents/guardians may pick-up kits without students present. Staff will request parents or guardians produce proof of student enrollment in the form of student ID, report card, or other official school documentation with the child's name printed on the document and provide names of non-school age or children not enrolled in school, who are 18 years old and under.

Service Times: Mondays and Thursdays from 12-6 p.m.

(If school is closed on a Monday, service will be on Tuesday. For example: Schools are closed on Monday, September 7, for the Labor Day holiday = service will be offered Tuesday, September 8)

Service Style: Curbside pickup at school main entrance.

Meal Types: Kits are FREE to all children 18 years old and under, and include a variety of whole grains, protein, fruits, vegetables and milk designed as a weekly grocery supplement.

Benefits are the equivalent of breakfast, lunch, supper, and snack for 5 days, plus supper and snack for 2 days. *Indicates schools where benefits are the equivalent of breakfast and lunch for 5 days.

Minneapolis Public Schools:

Free Food Boxes for Children



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gn3VVRmqtCk>

Minneapolis Public Schools Culinary & Wellness Services is providing FREE food boxes for ALL children*, 18 and under, through **August 21** in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All families are invited to participate in this program. Food boxes include items for seven breakfasts and seven lunches and are filled with fresh produce and true food ingredients that meet our district's high bar for nutrition.

Families can pick up food boxes at nearly 50 schools and parks across Minneapolis, Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find **Food Pick-up Locations**. To keep families and staff safe, sites offer contact-free pick-up. All youth are invited to participate in this program and do not need to be enrolled in MPS to receive food boxes. Youth, parents, or siblings can pick up one box for each child in their family, per week. Source: <https://nutritionservices.mpls.k12.mn.us/covid19>

Kanawha County (Charleston) West Virginia:



KCS 2020 SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

Kanawha County Schools announces their sponsorship of the 2020 federally-funded Summer Food Service Program. **Five-day breakfast and lunch boxes will be available for pick-up for all children, ages 18 years and under, who would like to participate.** Participation will vary at each site and schedules could be adjusted to accommodate for area needs. These are all open sites and you may obtain your meal kit at any location listed.

Meal kits will be distributed at the following open sites for parent pick-up only. Parents will drive up to the tent or front door check-in, open the trunk of the car or side door, and staff will load and close the door. Five-day meal kits will contain breakfast and lunch items along with milk. They have a shelf life of 10 days and portions of the kit will need refrigeration within 2 hours.

San Francisco United School District:

Free Meals Available for All Children

Student Nutrition Services is committed to ensuring no child goes hungry and will provide free meals to all children in San Francisco this summer.

Free grab and go meals are available to pick up every Wednesday at the sites listed below. **Each bag provides 5 days' worth of meals**, including items such as cereal, oatmeal, sandwiches, pupusas, pizza, burritos, fresh fruits and vegetables, and milk. [Download Heating Guide.](#)



Dallas Public Schools



DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT | Food and Child Nutrition Services

FREE CURBSIDE MEAL PICK-UP MENU

PICK-UP DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
Breakfast To Go Waffle Sausage Sandwich Juice	Breakfast To Go Cereal Bowl 1 oz. Cheese Juice	Breakfast To Go Banana Bread Slice Juice	Breakfast To Go Mini Maple Waffles Juice
Corn Dog Lunch Bag Chicken Corn Dog Vegetable of the Day Fruit of the Day	Nacho Lunch Bag Tortilla Chips Cheddar Cheese Cup Peanuts Assorted Dips Fruit of the Day	Grilled Cheese Lunch Bag Grilled Cheese Sandwich Vegetable of the Day Fruit of the Day	Chicken Slider Lunch Bag Grilled Chicken Sliders Fava Beans Vegetable of the Day Fruit of the Day
DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7	
Breakfast To Go Apple Cinnamon Texas Toast Juice	Breakfast To Go Mini Bagels with Strawberry Cream Cheese Juice	Breakfast To Go Cereal Bowl 1 oz. Cheese Juice	
Pinwheel Pocket Lunch Bag Pinwheel Pocket Vegetable of the Day Fruit of the Day	Burrito Lunch Bag Southwest Burrito Vegetable of the Day Fruit of the Day	PB&J Lunch Bag Strawberry PB&J Sandwich Cheese Stick Soft Pretzel Vegetable of the Day Fruit of the Day	

Menu is subject to change. Read carefully and prepare each item according to proper instructions. For a complete list of preparation instructions and nutrition information, please visit www.dallasisd.org/grabandgomeals. Students have the option to take 1% white milk. This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

Are meals being served during summer?

Yes! Meal service will continue through June and July, you'll receive the same number of meals as during the school year. Food service has been extended through the month of August, ending on August 27.

Who is eligible for meals?

Meals are available to all children through the age of 18, and 19 years old if the child turns 19 during the current school year (on or after the first day of school), and to students with disabilities without regard to age.

When will meals be distributed?

Meals will be distributed every Thursday between 9 AM and Noon. You'll receive seven breakfasts and lunches.

Albuquerque Public Schools:



**ALBUQUERQUE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Families can pick up a week's worth of meals on Mondays. In mid-August, families will need school-issued tickets to pick up meals.



A week's worth of meals

St. Paul Public Schools:

Meal Service During the COVID-19 School Closure



**SUMMER
MEAL BOXES**

New Foods Coming:

- Tuna and chicken pouches
- Pasta and marinara sauce
- Ramen
- Black and pinto beans
- Salsa
- Flour tortillas
- Jasmine rice

HOME DELIVERY

Saint Paul Public Schools is offering weekly home meal delivery to Saint Paul families who are in need of food for their children. Meals are only for kids ages 18 and under, or those with a disability enrolled in a school program. **Meal delivery will continue this summer and is open to any family in Saint Paul, not just SPPS students.** If you would like to receive home delivery, you can [register online](#) below.

Orange County Public Schools (Orlando, Fla)

Curbside Meals for LaunchEd@Home Students - Fall 2020

Beginning Monday, August 10, Orange County Public Schools' Food and Nutrition Services Department will provide meals for students utilizing the LaunchEd@Home instructional model with a Curbside Meals Program. This ensures those students who rely on nutritious meals to be able to continue doing so, even when they are not in the building for their lessons.

Details of the program:

- The meals will be available at all 202 OCPS schools for LaunchEd@Home students.
- Students will use their current meal benefit status (free, reduced or paid) to participate.
- **The entire week of meals can be picked up every Monday** starting 30 minutes after dismissal for an hour and a half. (Schedule is subject to change based on participation)
- Students picking up meals must provide a student ID, and if parents are coming through the lines, they must provide their student's name and ID number.
- The OCPS school meals program is offered through the USDA Child Nutrition Program under the Florida Department of Agriculture.
<https://www.ocps.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=54703&pageId=1404484>

➤ Typical NYC-DOE School Hub site



5. Recommendations/Next Steps

Going forward, there is much that can be done when schools reopen in September, to ensure all Federal dollars get spent and best utilized. For school reopening, most families will have to rely on a hybrid model for meals. Some meals will be eaten at school while most meals will continue as Grab and Go for the remote learning days. In New York City, for the 48% of students will have all remote time school, only Grab and Go will work. There is also the possibility that there will be another complete schoolwide shutdown with only remote learning. Now is the time for the NYC-DOE to launch a multiple meals/bulk food package pickup option. Below are three recommendations for maximizing Federal government dollars to help ensure no one goes hungry. These recommendations apply to all school districts.

1. **Give families a choice by launching a bulk food staples pickup lasting 5 days a week pilot program:** With NYC-DOE schools going on a hybrid schedule with one or two days of in person learning, and at least 30% of families requesting full remote education, all children that rely on the National School Free Breakfast and Lunch program will still get their meals through the **Grab and Go Program**. As the largest school food program in the country, the NYC-DOE Office of Food and Nutrition Services can certainly launch a multiple meals/bulk food package option either as a pilot or regular program option for five days of meals. The DOE doesn't have to start from scratch here; there are more than a few large school districts to draw on their experience with multiple meals/bulk food packaging. The DOE can use its vetted food supply vendors to prepare the bulk food packages. Also, the bulk food option should be first launched in the most food scarce neighborhoods where the pantries cannot keep up with demand²⁵.
2. **Allow all families a multiple meals pick up option that will give families five days worth of food.** In addition to bulk food staples option, the multiple meals option, where families can pick up enough food with **one trip** to last up to seven days, should also be available. The menus in the eight school districts shows that a varied selection including several hot meals per week should also be part of Grab and Go. For the first five months of Grab and Go, DOE publicity said 3 meals a day per child could be picked up. For the new school year, the three meals per day policy is still in effect. The NYC-DOE should not only allow multiple meals, with more than just cold sandwiches, and **but also vigorously publicize** (as other large schools districts have been doing) that multiple meals (up to five or even seven days as allowed by USDA-FNS) can be picked up. This change will mean less trips and greater participation.
3. **Problem solve with Washington and Albany:** As the largest school district in the country, why not immediately reach out to NYSED-Office of Child Nutrition and USDA-Food and Nutrition Services for a discussion of new strategies for the upcoming school year. The request is very simple. Last spring, we saw a big drop in participation and did not spend around \$75 million; for this coming fall and winter, what can we do differently to make sure everyone gets the meals and nutrition they are entitled to under the law. What is the range of food choices for bulk packages? Are we doing everything possible within the existing law and waivers? Both USDA and NYSED have staff expert in making sure that school districts are providing meals to maximum number of children eligible. The long list of COVID-19 waivers were designed to give school districts flexibility to maintain same rates of participation with pre-COVID-19.

²⁵ Food Bank for New York City published a report in June showing which neighborhoods have been most adversely affected by COVID-19 with food shortages. ²⁵

Appendix 1:

New York State Education Department-Child Nutrition Office
Reimbursement Data

Source of data: All NYC-DOE school food reimbursement amounts come from the New York State Education Department-Child Nutrition Office. NYC-DOE is reimbursed through two separate programs: the School Lunch and Breakfast; and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). In a typical school year, 11 months are run using the School Lunch and Breakfast program with the month of July using the SFSP. Due to COVID-19, the NYC-DOE switched over to SFSP in mid-March with Grab and Go beginning on March 23.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Combined Breakfast and Lunch COVID-19
April 1 to June 30, 2020

Entry Date	Invoice Description	Claim Month	Payment Amount
	COVID Period		
06/24/20	Federal Summer Food Service Program	April	6,753,539
06/24/20	Federal Summer Food Service Program	April	9,999,999
07/15/20	Federal Summer Food Service Program	May	9,999,999
07/15/20	Federal Summer Food Service Program	May	2,217,355
07/15/20	Federal Summer Food Service Program	May	9,999,999
08/26/20	Federal Summer Food Service Program	May	1,606,329
08/20/20	Federal Summer Food Service Program	June	24,099,752
	State SFSP Contribution for April to June		2,081,310
Totals			66,758,282

Notes: For State contribution to the SFSP program, the estimate is based on 3.3% past percentage amount (school year 2019-20) of Federal amount. The month of March is not included since it was a transition and the DOE did not begin the Grab and Go until the latter part of the month of March 23.

NYC Chancellors Office: April 1 to June 30 for School Year 2018-19 School Lunch Program

Entry Date	Invoice Description	Month/Year	Payment Amount
06/13/19	Federal Lunch	Apr 2018-19	9,999,999
06/13/19	Federal Lunch	Apr 2018-19	9,999,999
06/13/19	Federal Lunch	Apr 2018-19	3,328,368
06/13/19	Federal Lunch	Apr 2018-19	9,999,999
06/14/19	Federal Lunch	Apr 2018-19	3,610

07/03/19	Federal Lunch	May 2018-19	9,999,999
07/03/19	Federal Lunch	May 2018-19	9,999,999
07/03/19	Federal Lunch	May 2018-19	9,999,999
07/03/19	Federal Lunch	May 2018-19	9,999,999
07/03/19	Federal Lunch	May 2018-19	3,413,656
07/03/19	Federal Lunch	May 2018-19	19,106
07/19/19	Federal Lunch	Jun 2018-19	9,999,999
07/19/19	Federal Lunch	Jun 2018-19	9,999,999
07/19/19	Federal Lunch	Jun 2018-19	4,792,937
07/26/19	Federal Lunch	Jun 2018-19	2,885
07/30/19	Federal Lunch	Jun 2018-19	6,651
09/06/19	Federal Lunch	May 2018-19	5,122
09/06/19	Federal Lunch	Jun 2018-19	3,675
09/09/19	Federal Lunch	Jun 2018-19	1,441
09/09/19	Federal Lunch	May 2018-19	4,390
Total			101,581,832

NYC Chancellor's Office School Breakfast Program:

Entry Date	Invoice Description	Month/Year	Transaction Amount	Payment Amount
06/13/19	Federal Breakfast	Apr 2018-19	9,599,662	9,599,662
06/14/19	Federal Breakfast	Apr 2018-19	24,920	24,920
09/10/19	Federal Breakfast	Apr 2018-19	13	13
07/19/19	Federal Breakfast	Jun 2018-19	7,211,520	7,211,520
07/03/19	Federal Breakfast	May 2018-19	9,999,999	9,999,999
07/03/19	Federal Breakfast	May 2018-19	2,718,128	2,718,128
09/06/19	Federal Breakfast	May 2018-19	3,223	3,223
Total				29,557,465

NYC Chancellors Office State Reimbursement

Entry Date	Invoice Description	Month/Year	Transaction Amount	Payment Amount
06/13/19	State Lunch	Apr 2018-19	588,899	588,899
07/03/19	State Lunch	May 2018-19	767,103	767,103
07/19/19	State Lunch	Jun 2018-19	438,082	438,082
Total				1,794,084
06/13/19	State Breakfast	Apr 2018-19	458,101	458,101
07/03/19	State Breakfast	May 2018-19	606,920	606,920
07/19/19	State Breakfast	Jun 2018-19	344,163	344,163
Total				1,409,184

NYC Chancellor's Office Snacks Reimbursement

Entry Date	Invoice Description	Month/Year	Transaction Amount	Payment Amount
06/13/19	Federal Snack	Apr 2018-19	899,318	899,318
07/03/19	Federal Snack	May 2018-19	1,121,805	1,121,805
07/10/19	Federal Snack	Apr 2018-19	5,951	5,951
07/10/19	Federal Snack	May 2018-19	7,712	7,712
07/10/19	Federal Snack	Apr 2018-19	7,985	7,985
07/19/19	Federal Snack	Jun 2018-19	447,772	447,772
09/06/19	Federal Snack	Jun 2018-19	3,423	3,423
Totals				2,495,045

Appendix 2: Sources

<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/coronavirus-response-recovery/emergency-response>

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/documents/bulkfoodsfactsheet.pdf>

<https://canarsiecourier.com/mayor-calls-on-federal-government-to-increase-funding-for-food-assistance-p5790-255.htm>

<https://citylimits.org/2020/04/14/citys-food-programs-trying-to-keep-up-with-demand-amid-federal-uncertainties/>

<https://citylimits.org/2020/05/18/citys-efforts-to-meet-food-crisis-evolve-questions-about-long-term/>

https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2020/0622/In-Queens-residents-become-the-coronavirus-safety-nethttps://portal.nysed.gov/pls/cn_port/cnkc_pkg.year_end_query

<https://www.eater.com/2020/4/8/21212090/schools-acting-as-food-banks-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.food-management.com/k-12-schools/school-nutrition-programs-deal-deficits-shortfalls-and-uncertain-future>

<https://www.gothamgazette.com/city/9649-new-york-city-massive-emergency-food-program-fall-school-free-food>

<https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-three-lessons-from-san-francisco-about-keeping-students-fed-when-schools-are-closed/>

<https://ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/food-to-go-did-nyc-open-grab-and-go-sites-in-areas-with-the-greatest-need-schools-brief-july-2020.pdf>

<https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/hot-and-hungry-nyc-summer-meals/>

<https://theintercept.com/2020/06/16/coronavirus-hunger-crisis-nyc/>

<https://www.kare11.com/article/news/education/mpls-public-schools-extends-free-meals-program-st-paul-public-schools-hits-milestone-with-5-million-meals-served/89-94a1aa2d-0c5c-4186-b773-d346d029050b>

<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/460-20/mayor-de-blasio-commissioner-garcia-chancellor-carranza-summer-meal-hubs>

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-how-to-stop-new-yorkers-from-starving-20200717-5ye2glgjszhu7co7ovayek3a7q-story.html>

<https://nypost.com/2020/08/22/hungry-new-yorkers-line-up-around-the-block-for-free-food/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/19/us/politics/coronavirus-school-meals-relief.html>

https://schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/11COVID-19/3_Webinar_Series_and_Other_Resources/COVID-19-The-Financial-Blows-of-COVID-19.pdf

http://schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/6_News_Publications_and_Research/8_SNA_Research/COVID19-on-The-School-Nutrition-Industry.pdf

https://schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/11COVID-19/3_Webinar_Series_and_Other_Resources/COVID-19-Impact-on-School-Nutrition-Programs-Part2.pdf

<https://www.tc.columbia.edu/tisch/blog/news/serving-students-during-the-coronavirus-best-practices/>

<https://thecounter.org/covid-19-school-lunch-minneapolis-houston-kansas-city-san-francisco/>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2020/05/31/coronavirus-school-lunch-programs-going-broke-because-kids-hunger/3101507001/>

https://1giggs400j4830k22r3m4wgg-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/Fighting-More-Than-Covid-19_Research-Report_Food-Bank-For-New-York-City_6.09.20_web.pdf

<https://www.urban.org/research/publication/strategies-and-challenges-feeding-out-school-students>

Appendix 3:**State of California Guidance**Nutrition Services Division
May 2020

Providing Bulk Foods During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Program Operators

For additional COVID-19 Guidance, please visit the School and Child and Adult Day Care Meals COVID-19 guidance web page at

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/schoolmeals.asp>

Question 1—Can we provide multiple days' worth of meals at once to households?

Yes. Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Operators may provide eligible children or adults in day care with meals for up to one week at a time.

Question 2—Can we provide food in bulk (e.g., providing a gallon of milk instead of individual cartons)?

Yes. CNP Operators are permitted to provide components in a bulk “grocery-style” to assist with storage and other operational challenges. This may require additional math to calculate how much of a component is needed for a household. For example, for the milk component, if a household has 3 children picking up both breakfast and lunch meals for 5 days, calculate the number of half pints of milk needed (3 children x 2 meals x 5 days = 30 cups. A gallon of milk is equal to 16 half pints, so 2 gallons is enough to meet the minimum requirement of 30 cups).

Question 3—What documentation should accompany the bag(s) of bulk food?

CNP Operators should provide each household with:



- A menu for each of the meals with a list of ingredients in each food (include any allergens).
- Directions indicating which items should be used for each meal and the planned serving sizes of each food.
- Instructions on storage and preparation in accordance with food safety principles. For guidance on food safety, reference the California Department of Education (CDE) fact sheet for handling food safely. Please go to Safe Food Handling Practices (PDF) at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/documents/foodsafetyfactsheet.pdf> to download and view the fact sheet or contact your local environment health agency.

- A discard date for food that is not consumed.

Question 4—Do we need a waiver to provide food in bulk?

No. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Memorandum SP 13-2020, CACFP 07-2020, SFSP 06-2020, CNP Nationwide Waivers: Questions and Answers (PDF) available at <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SP13-2020s-a.pdf>, CNP Operators with approved noncongregate feeding and meal service time waivers may provide bulk items as long as individual meals are easily identifiable as a reimbursable meal.

Exception: CNP Operators using the Summer Seamless Option meal pattern that cannot obtain multiple types of milk in bulk form may request a meal pattern requirements waiver 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.

Question 5—When implementing bulk foods as a delivery mechanism, what factors should be considered?

CNP Operators:

- **Must** include the required food components in at least the minimum amounts for each reimbursable meal being claimed, unless the CNP Operator has an approved meal pattern waiver for specific component(s).
- **Must** ensure that food items are clearly identifiable as making up reimbursable meals.
- Consider whether households have access to refrigeration, stoves, microwaves, etc., when providing food that requires refrigeration or further preparation, such as reheating.
- Ensure that only minimal preparation is required and that food is not provided as ingredients for recipes that require chopping, mixing, baking, etc.
- Employ a system to document how food was distributed.

Question 6—What are examples of bulk items that we can send home?

butter,



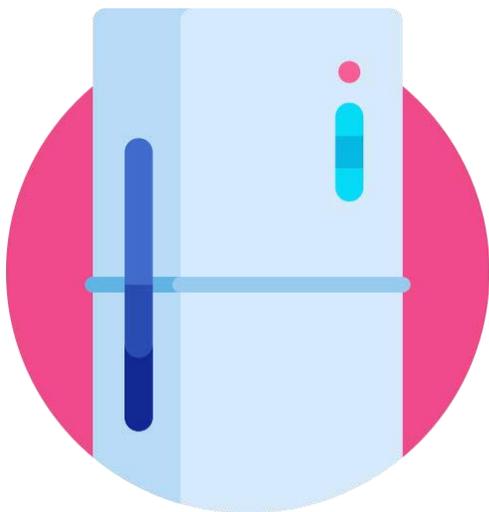
Examples of items that CNP Operators can provide in bulk include bags of rice and pasta, loaves of bread, jars of peanut butter, boxes of chicken nuggets, blocks of cheese or bags of shredded cheese, containers of hummus, gallons of milk, broccoli heads, bags of lettuce, bags of baby carrots, and canned fruit.

Question 7—Can the CNP Operator package and distribute frozen food items (e.g., precooked chicken nuggets) that need to be reheated and/or shelf-stable foods that need to be cooked at home (e.g., dry pasta) as part of the reimbursable meals?

Yes, if specific measures are taken. These food items must meet the applicable CNP meal pattern requirements in order to be served as part of the reimbursable meal, unless the CNP Operator has an approved meal pattern waiver, and should be accompanied by the documentation listed in question #4 above.

CNP Operators should include the food safety guidance listed below and the CDE Safe Food Handling Practices fact sheet (PDF) at

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/documents/foodsafetyfactsheet.pdf>.



- Provide frozen foods only if they are labeled as “fully cooked,” “precooked,” or “ready-to-eat” on the manufacturer’s packaging. CNP Operators should not distribute any raw animal-based time/ temperature control for safety food items, such as raw chicken, raw eggs, raw beef, etc.
- Place food into food grade bags or packaging.
- Include a copy of ingredient lists (including any allergens).
- Provide reheating and cooking instructions. Since many households may be using the microwave, we suggest simplifying those instructions by stating: **Heat all parts of the food to a temperature of at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit.**
- Provide storage instructions, clearly identifying the menu items requiring immediate refrigeration or freezing. Instruct households to discard all refrigerated foods after seven days of receiving it.

Question 8—Can we provide hot, ready-to-eat meals to households?

Yes. Hot food should be provided only if it is intended to be consumed upon receipt. Instruct households to consume hot foods within two hours of receipt or one hour if the room temperature is above 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

Bulk Milk Distribution Chart
5-Day Distribution (Breakfast and Lunch)

Number of Children	Gallon (16 Cups)	½ Gallon (8 Cups)	½ Pint (1 Cup)	Total Volume
5	3	0	2	50 Cups
4	2	1	0	40 Cups
3	1	1	6	30 Cups
2	1	0	4	20 Cups
1	0	1	2	10 Cups

Bulk Milk Distribution Chart
3-Day Distribution (Breakfast and Lunch)

Number of Children	Gallon (16 Cups)	½ Gallon (8 Cups)	½ Pint (1 Cup)	Total Volume
5	1	1	6	30 Cups
4	1	1	0	24 Cups
3	1	0	2	18 Cups
2	0	1	4	12 Cups
1	0	0	6	6 Cups

Bulk Distribution Chart
2-Day Distribution (Breakfast and Lunch)

Number of Children	Gallon (16 Cups)	½ Gallon (8 Cups)	½ Pint (1 Cup)	Total Volume
5	1	0	4	20 Cups
4	1	0	0	16 Cups
3	0	1	4	12 Cups
2	0	1	0	8 Cups
1	0	0	4	4 Cups

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.