

## Summary of Current COVID-19 Child Nutrition Program Response Nationwide Waivers

Unless otherwise noted, state agencies are eligible to use all nationwide waivers without application, but they must still elect to be subject to the waiver by notifying their USDA Regional Office. Unless otherwise noted, these waivers do **not** apply to all operators automatically -- state agencies must provide information to operators before operators can implement the waiver. For all waivers, a report must be made within a year summarizing the use of the waiver by the state and program operators as well as whether the waiver improved services to program beneficiaries.

This document was last updated on 3/30/2020. See the [USDA FNS website](#) for all nationwide waivers and contact your state agency for more information about these and other waivers. See the end of this document for a glossary of acronyms and terms.

Waiver #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	End Date	What It Does	Notes
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #1</a>	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs	All: NSLP, SBP, SFSP, SSO, CACFP	June 30, 2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides flexibility for serving times</li> <li>Allows for serving multiple meals for the same day at one time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operators must still establish meal service times or delivery times</li> <li>At this time, only SFSP or SSO operators may distribute meals for multiple days at the same time</li> </ul>
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #2</a>	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs	All: NSLP, SBP, SFSP, SSO, CACFP	June 30, 2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows for off-site consumption of meals &amp; serving models like grab-n-go, curbside pick-up, mobile/bus routes, and home delivery</li> </ul>	
N/A ( <a href="#">Q&amp;A</a> )	COVID-19 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Meal Delivery Using Existing Authority	SFSP & SSO	<i>As long as #2 is in effect</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets guidelines &amp; restrictions around home delivery</li> <li>Clarifies that meals can be served through SFSP/SSO during spring break if break is postponed or cancelled</li> <li>Clarifies that NSLP/SBP can be used during distance learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents must consent in writing &amp; verify their address before starting delivery</li> <li>The child does not need to be present for delivery; no one needs to be present for delivery of shelf-stable food</li> <li>Delivery must be led or run by SFA but can involve other partners with parental consent to share their information</li> </ul>
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #3</a>	Nationwide Waiver of the Activity Requirement in Afterschool Care Child Nutrition Programs	NSLP Afterschool Snacks & CACFP At-Risk Afterschool	June 30, 2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminates need for supervised enrichment programming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows CACFP At-Risk Afterschool sites to function similar to SFSP open sites</li> </ul>
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #4</a>	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs	All: NSLP, SBP, SFSP, SSO, CACFP	April 30, 2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows operators to get reimbursement even if meal does not meet all requirements or include all meal components</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operators must get advance approval from their state agency</li> <li>State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis</li> <li>USDA instructs states to consider whether request is due to supply issues</li> </ul>

\*Or until the end of the public health emergency, whichever is earlier

Latest version available at: <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/summary-current-covid-19-child-nutrition-program-response-nationwide-waivers>

Waiver #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	End Date	What It Does	Notes
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #5</a>	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children	All: NSLP, SBP, SFSP, SSO, CACFP	June 30, 2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows for distributing meals without a child present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>States need to ensure integrity &amp; are instructed to work with operators on ways to verify adults have eligible children</li> </ul>
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #6</a>	Nationwide Waiver of Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Deadlines	NLSP & SBP	August 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extends deadlines for various tasks within the CEP data release and election process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISPs may be calculated based on data drawn through June 30, 2020</li> <li>Deadline to declare intent to elect CEP is now August 31, 2020</li> </ul>
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #7</a>	Nationwide Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for CACFP Sponsors	CACFP	June 30, 2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows sponsors to monitor facilities two times (instead of three) this fiscal year, and only one must be unannounced</li> <li>Waives the requirement for at least one unannounced review to include the observation of a meal service</li> <li>Waives the requirement that no more than six months elapse between reviews</li> <li>Allows new facility reviews to be done by desk audit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available to sponsors that elect to be subject to the waiver; it is our understanding that sponsors do not need their state to opt-in for them</li> <li>New facility reviews must still be done within the facility's first four weeks of operation</li> </ul>
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #8</a>	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP State Agencies	CACFP	June 30, 2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waives the in-person component of the state agency's required monitoring activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>States must continue to ensure integrity, such as through desk audits</li> </ul>
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #9</a>	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs	NSLP, SBP	June 30, 2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waives the in-person component of the state agency's and SFA's required monitoring activities.</li> <li>Allows states to postpone required reviews of SFAs that are closed and request an extension on their review cycle as needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available to states and SFAs that elect to be subject to the waiver</li> </ul>

\*Or until the end of the public health emergency, whichever is earlier

Latest version available at: <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/summary-current-covid-19-child-nutrition-program-response-nationwide-waivers>

Waiver #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	End Date	What It Does	Notes
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #10</a>	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP Sponsoring Organizations	SFSP	June 30, 2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waives the requirement for an in-person site visit during the first week of a site's operation and the review of the site's food service within the first four weeks of operation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available to sponsors that elect to be subject to the waiver; it is our understanding that sponsors do not need their state to opt-in for them</li> <li>• Sponsors must continue to ensure integrity, such as through desk audits</li> <li>• For sites that will operate during summer 2020, sponsors can postpone visits until then</li> </ul>
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #11</a>	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP State Agencies	SFSP	June 30, 2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waives the in-person component of the state agency's required monitoring activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• States must continue to ensure integrity, such as through desk audits</li> <li>• For sponsors that will operate during summer 2020, states can postpone visits until then</li> <li>• Reminds states that pre-operational visits may be waived for sponsors operating during school closures and that SFSP reviews are not required in the same year as a satisfactory NSLP review as long as the same person runs both programs</li> </ul>

## Glossary of Acronyms & Terms

- **CACFP:** Child and Adult Care Food Program
- **ISP:** Identified Student Percentage
- **NSLP:** National School Lunch Program
- **Program Operator:** Includes SFAs, public and private non-profit sponsoring organizations, and independent organizations that work directly with their state agency to run one or more of the child nutrition programs
- **SBP:** School Breakfast Program
- **SFA:** School Food Authority
- **School Food Authority:** The governing body responsible for operating school meal programs at one or more schools within one or more school districts
- **SFSP:** Summer Food Service Program
- **SSO:** NSLP Seamless Summer Option

\*Or until the end of the public health emergency, whichever is earlier

Latest version available at: <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/summary-current-covid-19-child-nutrition-program-response-nationwide-waivers>