

Summary of COVID-19 Child Nutrition Program Response Nationwide Waivers & Memos

This resource briefly describes all nationwide waivers and guidance memoranda released by the USDA in response to the coronavirus. Due to the number of extensions, this resource begins by listing which waivers are in effect until various dates. The waivers and guidance memoranda detailed in the table on the following pages are listed in order of number and release date. The waiver number in the table links to the USDA landing page for the waiver.

This was last updated on 8/6/2020.

See the [USDA FNS website](#) for all nationwide waivers and [guidance memoranda](#). See the end of this document for a glossary of acronyms and terms.

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. These waivers do **not** apply to all operators automatically -- state agencies must opt in and provide information to operators before operators can implement the waiver. Please contact your state agency for more information about these and other state-requested waivers.

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.

Waivers Expired as of June 30, 2020

- [Waiver of the Activity Requirement in Afterschool Care Child Nutrition Programs \(#3\)](#)
- [Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations through June 30, 2020 \(#21\)](#)

Waivers in Effect Until August 31, 2020

- [Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs \(#2 & #24\)](#) -- for SFSP (other programs until June 2021)
- [Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children \(#5 & #25\)](#) -- for SFSP (other programs until June 2021)
- [Area Eligibility Waiver Extensions \(#32\)](#) -- for SFSP and SSO
- [Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs \(#4, #13, #24, #26 & #38\)](#) -- for SFSP (other programs until June 2021)

Waivers in Effect Until September 30, 2020

- [Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites in the SFSP and NSLP SSO \(#14\)](#)
- [Waiver of the First Week Site Visit Requirement in the SFSP \(#15\)](#)
- [Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the SFSP \(#16\)](#)
- [Meal Service Time Flexibilities in the SFSP and SSO \(#17\)](#)
- [Food Service Management Contract Duration in the NSLP and SFSP \(#19\)](#)
- [Waiver of Annual Review Requirements for State Agencies in the CACFP \(#20\)](#)

Waivers in Effect Until June 30, 2021 for NSLP*, SBP, and CACFP

- [Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs \(#2, #24 & #33\)](#)
- [Meal Service Time Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs \(#1 & #17 & #34\)](#)
- [Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children \(#5 & #25 & #35\)](#)
- [Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs \(#4, #13, #24, #26 & #36\)](#)
- [Offer Versus Serve Flexibility for Senior High Schools in the NSLP \(#37\)](#)
- [Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs \(#9, #29 & #41\)](#)

**Waivers for NSLP are assumed to apply to SSO since it falls under NSLP; previous waivers that applied to both specify NSLP only*

Waivers in Effect Until September 30, 2021 for NSLP*, SBP, and CACFP

- [Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP Sponsors \(#7 & #27 were broader; #39 only waives the onsite requirement\)](#)
- [Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP State Agencies \(#8, #28 & #40\)](#)
- [Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP Sponsors \(#10, #30 & #42\)](#)
- [Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP State Agencies \(#11, #31 & #43\)](#)

Deadline & Deadline Extension Waivers

- [Waiver of Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\) Deadlines \(#6\)](#)
- [Waiver of 60 Day Reporting Requirements for January and February 2020 \(#12\)](#)
- [Deadline Extension for Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the NSLP and SBP \(#18\)](#)
- [FFCRA Opt-In Waiver for SY2020- 2021 NSLP USDA Foods Entitlement Calculations](#)

Guidance Memoranda and Q&As

- [COVID-19 SFSP and SSO Meal Delivery Using Existing Authority](#)
- [SFSP and SSO Nationwide Waivers – Questions and Answers](#)
- [Questions and Answers Related to the Child Nutrition Program Monitoring and Reporting Nationwide Waivers](#)
- [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program During COVID-19](#)
- [FFVP During COVID-19: Questions & Answers #2](#)
- [Child Nutrition Program Nationwide Waivers: Questions and Answers](#)
- [Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #3](#)
- [Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #4](#)
- [Answers Related to FSMC Contract Extensions and Allowable Costs During the Pandemic](#)
- [Questions and Answers on the Nationwide Waiver to Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations through June 30, 2020](#)

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #1	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	March 20, 2020	June 30, 2020* <i>Extended to Sept. 30 (SFSP/SSO) or June 30, 2021 (NSLP, SBP, CACFP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides flexibility for serving times. Allows for serving multiple meals for the same day at one time. With further clarification, this includes meals for multiple days at the same time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators must still establish meal service times or delivery times.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #2	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	March 20, 2020	June 30, 2020* <i>Extended to August 31 (SFSP/SSO) or June 30, 2021 (NSLP, SBP, CACFP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for consumption of meals off-site and outside of group settings. This allows for serving models like grab-n-go, curbside pick-up, mobile/bus routes, and home delivery. 	
N/A (Q&A)	COVID-19 SFSP and SSO Meal Delivery Using Existing Authority	SFSP & SSO		<i>As long as #2 is in effect</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets guidelines & restrictions around home delivery Clarifies that meals can be served through SFSP/SSO during spring break if break is postponed or cancelled. Clarifies that NSLP/SBP can be used during distance learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents must consent in writing and verify address before delivery starts. Children not need to be present for delivery; no one needs to be present for delivery of shelf-stable food. See the Q&A on the Extension of Unanticipated School Closure Operations for guidance on who can operate home deliveries.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #3	Nationwide Waiver of the Activity Requirement in Afterschool Care Child Nutrition Programs	NSLP Afterschool Snacks & CACFP At-Risk Afterschool	March 20, 2020	June 30, 2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates need for supervised enrichment programming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows CACFP At-Risk Afterschool sites to function similar to SFSP open sites.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #4	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	March 25, 2020	April 30, 2020* <i>Extended to July 31 (SFSP/SSO) or June 30, 2021 (NSLP, SBP, CACFP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators must get advance approval from their state agency. State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis. USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #5	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	March 25, 2020	June 30, 2020* <i>Extended to August 31 (SFSP/SSO) or June 30, 2021 (NSLP, SBP, CACFP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for distributing meals to adults without a child present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States need to ensure integrity and are instructed to work with operators on ways to verify that adults have eligible children.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #6	Nationwide Waiver of Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Deadlines	NLSP & SBP	March 25, 2020	August 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extends deadlines for various tasks within the CEP data release and election process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISPs may be calculated based on data drawn through June 30, 2020 Deadline to declare intent to elect CEP is now August 31, 2020.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #7	Nationwide Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for CACFP Sponsors	CACFP	March 27, 2020	June 30, 2020* <i>Extended to August 31</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows sponsors to monitor facilities two times (instead of three) this fiscal year, and only one must be unannounced. Waives the requirement for at least one unannounced review to include the observation of a meal service. Waives the requirement that no more than six months elapse between reviews. Allows new facility reviews to be done by desk audit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. New facility reviews must still be done within the facility's first four weeks of operation.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #8	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP State Agencies	CACFP	March 27, 2020	June 30, 2020* <i>Extended to August 31</i> <i>Other flexibilities through Sept. 30</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waives the in-person component of the state agency's required monitoring activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #9	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs	NSLP, SBP, SSO	March 27, 2020	June 30, 2020* Extended to August 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives the in-person component of the state agency's and SFA's required monitoring activities. • Allows states to postpone required reviews of SFAs that are closed and request an extension on their review cycle. 	
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #10	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP Sponsoring Organizations	SFSP	March 27, 2020	June 30, 2020* Extended to August 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsors must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. • For sites that will operate during summer 2020, sponsors can postpone visits until then.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #11	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP State Agencies	SFSP	March 27, 2020	June 30, 2020* Extended to August 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives the in-person component of the state agency's required monitoring activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. • For sponsors that will operate during summer 2020, states can postpone visits until then. • 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.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #12	Nationwide Waiver of 60 Day Reporting Requirements for January and February 2020	All: NSLP, SBP, SFSP, SSO, CACFP, SMP	April 1, 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends the deadline to submit claims for reimbursement for January 2020 and February 2020 by 30 days each. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This now allows 90 days rather than 60 days for submission of reports. • States and operators are encouraged to meet the original deadline wherever possible.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
CACFP 06, SFSP 05, SP 11-2020	Questions and Answers Related to the Child Nutrition Program Monitoring and Reporting Nationwide Waivers	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	April 9, 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifies COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response waivers #7-#12, including what elements of reviews can be done off-site and ways to assess elements usually observed on site. Provides guidance on CACFP attendance records. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per #7, program operators in states that elect to use these waivers are not required to submit individual waiver requests but advance notification may be required. State agencies may approve new SFSP and CACFP sponsors through off-site pre-approval visits.
SP 12-2020	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program During COVID-19	FFVP	April 9, 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifies that participating schools may serve fresh produce through FFVP in a non-congregate setting. Clarifies that produce may be served outside the typical school day, at whatever time works best, including alongside other meals being distributed. This guidance applies to produce already in stock as well as produce ordered for distribution during closures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No waiver is required for non-congregate service outside of the school day or alongside other meals. FFVP produce may not be given to parents without their child present. Produce may be distributed to children even if they are not enrolled at the participating school. Produce may be distributed for up to a week at a time. Nutrition education is not required. FFVP produce may not be used as meal components.
SP 13-2020	Child Nutrition Program Nationwide Waivers: Questions and Answers	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	April 11, 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides clarification on waivers #1-#3, including how states elect to be subject to the waiver as well as record keeping and reporting. Clarifies that CACFP operators may distribute meals for more than one day at a time. Allows operators to serve items in bulk if there are instructions on portions and the items can be easily separated into meals with minimal preparation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per #7, program operators in states that elect to use these three waivers are not required to submit individual waiver requests, but advance notification may be required. Confirms that meals may only be distributed at sites approved by the state agency. Confirms that aside from SFSP and SSO open sites and CACFP At-Risk sites, operators may only serve enrolled participants and claim meals at the appropriate rates.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
SP 14-2020	Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #3	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	April 11, 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides clarification on various elements of program operations. Clarifies that the requirement for SFSP camp sites to provide programming is still in effect, but camp sites with appropriate safety measures may be approved to operate and serve non-congregate meals. Clarifies that advance funds may be paid to SFSP or SSO operators serving meals during unanticipated closures. Clarifies that all SFSP and SSO operators may, with state agency approval, serve meals during weekends, holidays, and breaks within the year (like spring break) without needing a waiver from the USDA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes that state agencies may approve operators to serve alternate forms of milk and may approve SSO operators to only serve one type of milk (instead of a variety) without needing a waiver from the USDA. Provides guidelines for home delivery through the CACFP, similar to guidelines offered for home delivery through SFSP or SSO. Confirms that school food authorities and sponsors approved to operate CACFP At-Risk as well as SFSP or SSO may operate both concurrently, at the same or different sites, as long as different meals are served through each program and daily meals per child maximums in each program are followed. Notes that states are still expected to provide public notification of all sites and to make accommodations who have limited English proficiency, need language assistance, or have other special needs.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #13	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	April 21, 2020	May 31, 2020* Extended to July 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators must get advance approval from their state agency. State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis. USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues. Elections and approvals under COVID-19 #4 may continue without further action.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #14	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites in the SFSP and NSLP SSO	SSO, SFSP	April 21, 2020	September 30, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows closed enrolled sites to determine site eligibility through area eligibility (instead of collecting income eligibility applications). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These flexibilities do <i>not</i> end as soon as the public health emergency ends. State agencies that have already individual requested and received traditional SFSP waivers may elect to be covered by these nationwide waivers during the COVID-19 emergency, in place of their traditional waivers. FNS will continue to process requests that have been submitted for the traditional SFSP waivers for summer 2020. Approvals of the traditional waivers will be effective beginning October 1, 2020. The traditional SFSP waivers will remain in effect through April 30, 2022, or until FNS publishes a final regulation that supersedes the approval, whichever comes first. Therefore, there is no need for State agencies to withdraw those requests or resubmit a request.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #15	Nationwide Waiver of First Week Site Visits in the SFSP	SFSP	April 21, 2020	September 30, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waives the requirement that SFSP sponsors visit each of their sites at least once during their first week of operation. Waiver applies to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that successfully operated SFSP the previous year. SFSP sponsors in good standing that successfully participate in the CACFP or the NSLP. 	
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #16	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the SFSP	SFSP	April 21, 2020	September 30, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waives the limitation on the use of Offer versus Serve (OVS) to SFAs. Allows the use of OVS by both non-SFA and SFA sponsors in good standing. Provides details of SFSP OVS meal service parameters. 	
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #17	Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions in the SFSP and SSO	SSO, SFSP	April 21, 2020 <i>Effective July 1</i>	September 30, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waives Federal rules on the amount of time that must elapse between the beginning of one meal and the beginning of the next, and the duration of a meal service. Waives meal service time parameters for SSO. Sponsors are still required to establish meal service times for each site. 	

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
CACFP 09, SFSP 08, SP15-2020	Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #4	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	April 21, 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows Head Start programs to deliver meals to enrolled children previously receiving CACFP or NSLP meals. Confirms that new sites may be approved if all aspects of the process are completed; pre-approval reviews may be off-site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CACFP sites that have closed may operate as SFSP sites under an SFSP sponsor with state approval. CACFP sites that are still open may also be approved as SFSP sites under an approved SFSP sponsor if they serve a separate group of kids. The non-discrimination statement must still appear on informational materials. Operators must still make meal accommodations for participants with disabilities.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #18	Nationwide Waiver of Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the NSLP and SBP	NSLP, SBP	April 23, 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extends the deadline to complete the triennial assessment of compliance with school wellness policies from June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In states that elect to be subject to this waiver, LEAs taking advantage of the new deadline must notify their state agency by June 30, 2020. LEAs that take advantage of the new deadline, the next triennial assessment of compliance must be completed by June 30, 2024.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #19	Nationwide Waiver of Food Service Management Contract Duration in the NSLP and SFSP	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP	April 24, 2020	September 30, 2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waives FSMC contract duration and extension limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows FSMC contracts that may expire on or around June 30, 2020 to be extended through SY2020-2021 (to June 30, 2021) using emergency non-competitive procurement. Contracts negotiated or extended through emergency procurement may not be renewed.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #20	Nationwide Waiver of Annual Review Requirements for State Agencies in the CACFP	CACFP	April 24, 2020	September 30, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives all CACFP monitoring requirements for state agencies included in Section 17(d)(2)(C) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and in the regulations at 7 CFR 226.6(m)(6) and 226.6(m)(6)(i) through (ii). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This broadens COVID-19 #8 in recognition of closures and other barriers to completing required administrative reviews. • USDA encourages states to prioritize next year the institutions scheduled to be reviewed this year. • States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #21	Nationwide Waiver to Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations through June 30, 2020	SSO, SFSP <i>(later clarified to apply to CACFP At-Risk)</i>	April 27, 2020	June 30, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives the limit on unanticipated school closure operations to October through April, allowing operators to continue current operations through June 30, 2020. • Waives the federal application deadline of June 15, 2020 for SFSP and SSO operators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operators may continue current operations regardless of school closure status. • States and operators may resume usual SFSP or SSO operations before June 30, 2020. • States may set their own application deadline.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #22	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs - EXTENSION	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	May 14, 2020	August 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for off-site consumption of meals & serving models like grab-n-go, curbside pick-up, mobile/bus routes, and home delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This flexibility does <i>not</i> end as soon as the public health emergency ends.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #23	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility in the NSLP, SBP, and CACFP	NSLP, SBP, CACFP	May 14, 2020	August 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for distribution of multiple meals at the same time, including meals for more than one day at a time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends COVID-19 #1. • SFSP and SSO meal service time flexibility was extended to September 30, 2020 through COVID-19 #17. • Operators must still establish service or delivery times. • This flexibility does <i>not</i> end when the public health emergency ends.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #24	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION 2	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	May 14, 2020	June 30, 2020 Extended to July 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators must get advance approval from their state agency. State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis. USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues. Elections and approvals under COVID-19 #4 or #13 may continue without further action. Available to operators transitioning from unanticipated school closure to traditional summer operations prior to expiration date.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #25	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children – EXTENSION	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	May 14, 2020	August 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows parents or guardians to pick up meals for their child. Allows for distributing meals to a guardian of an adult participant in the CACFP without the participant present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States need to ensure integrity & are instructed to work with operators on ways to verify adults have eligible children or adult participants. This flexibility does <i>not</i> end when the public health emergency ends.
SP 18, SFSP 10-2020	SFSP and SSO Nationwide Waivers – Questions and Answers	SSO, SFSP	May 19, 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides clarification and guidance related to nationwide waivers COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #14 to #17. Confirms that operators may request waivers if their state agency does not opt in to the nationwide waiver or request its own statewide waiver. Allows OVS for non-congregate SFSP meals if sites implement it safely and correctly. Confirms that the meal service time waiver, combined with the non-congregate waiver, allows for multiple meals to be distributed at the same time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camps may not utilize the waiver allowing closed enrolled sites to use area eligibility in lieu of applications. The first week site visit waiver only applies to sites that successfully participated in the SFSP the previous year as well as CACFP and NSLP sponsors in good standing. The OVS waiver may not be used to circumvent the meal pattern; all components must be offered. Although the meal service time waiver does not expire until September 30, 2020, the non-congregate waiver expires on August 30, 2020.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
SP 19-2020	FFVP During COVID-19: Questions & Answers #2	FFVP	May 19, 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs SFAs to request a waiver to distribute FFVP produce at locations other than participating elementary schools. • Confirms that funds may be reallocated from participating schools that are not distributing meals to those that are. • Allows schools that participated in 2019-2020 and participate again in 2020-2021 to use the signatures on file if none of the signatories has changed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirms that FFVP produce may be distributed or delivered to children of all ages, not just students at participating elementary schools. • Participating elementary schools that are not distributing meals may not use FFVP funds to purchase produce to donate to other sites. • Participating schools that are not selected to participate in 2020-2021 may not retain funds for use next school year; they must be returned. • States may not extend the deadline to obligate funds but may extend some reporting deadlines.
CACFP 11, SFSP 11, SP 20-2020	Questions and Answers on the Nationwide Waiver to Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations through June 30, 2020	SSO, SFSP, CACFP	May 29, 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews the requirements and elements of the law addressed by the waiver. • Clarifies that COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response #21 also allows CACFP At-Risk Afterschool operations to continue for as long as unanticipated school closure operations continue, regardless of the school calendar. • Confirms that other waivers and flexibilities that have not yet expired still apply to SFSP and SSO operators after they transition to summer operations. • Allows non-profit SFSP sponsors to initiate home delivered meals if the public in eligible areas are notified and permitted to sign up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with all nationwide waivers, states may or may not opt in to this waiver. • If a state does not opt in to COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response #21, CACFP At-Risk Afterschool operations must end as soon as the planned school year ends, and programs must transition to usual summer options through SFSP or SSO, including the completion of required application materials. • SFSP and SSO sponsors delivering meals to homes should not treat each home as a site (in the same way that stops along a mobile route are). They should comply with the guidelines in the meal delivery Q&A. • Other streamlining measures and flexibilities for SFAs and CACFP At-Risk sponsors transitioning to summer meals program operations are still available.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
CACFP 12, SFSP 12, SP 21-2020	Questions and Answers Related to FSMC Contract Extensions and Allowable Costs During the Pandemic	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	June 3, 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides guidance on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance fees charged by a FSMC Implications of additional costs to fixed-price contracts Paying staff who are not currently working and providing hazard pay Non-refundable costs for cancelled events & activities Provides guidance to SFAs on documentation needed regarding health inspections. Confirms that PPE, bottled water, and packaging and delivery costs are allowable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CACFP was not covered by the FSMC contract extension waiver because it does not have contract duration limits like other programs. For guidance on extending contracts other than FSMC contracts, consult state and local procurement standards. Although meal packaging and delivery costs are allowable, there is no additional funding available for these costs. State administrative expense (SAE) funds may not be used for local-level costs.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #26	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION 3	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	June 8, 2020	July 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators must get advance approval from their state agency. State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis. USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues. Elections and approvals under COVID-19 #4, #13 or #24 continue without further action.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #27	Nationwide Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for CACFP Sponsors – EXTENSION	CACFP	June 8, 2020	August 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows sponsors to monitor facilities two times (instead of three) this fiscal year, and only one must be unannounced. Waives the requirement for at least one unannounced review to include the observation of a meal service. Waives the requirement that no more than six months elapse between reviews. Allows new facility reviews to be done by desk audit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Elections and approvals under the original waiver may continue without further action. New facility reviews must still be done within the facility's first four weeks of operation.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #28	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP State Agencies – EXTENSION	CACFP	June 8, 2020	August 31, 2020 Other flexibilities through Sept. 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives the in-person component of the state agency's required monitoring activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections and approvals under the original waiver may continue without further action. • States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #29	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs – EXTENSION	NSLP, SBP, SSO	June 8, 2020	August 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives the in-person component of the state agency's and SFA's required monitoring activities. • Allows states to postpone required reviews of SFAs that are closed and request an extension on their review cycle as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections and approvals under the original waiver may continue without further action.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #30	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP Sponsoring Organizations – EXTENSION	SFSP	June 8, 2020	August 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections and approvals under the original waiver may continue without further action. • Sponsors must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. • COVID-19 #15 waived the first week site visit requirement for SFSP sites and sponsors that meet certain criteria.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #31	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP State Agencies – EXTENSION	SFSP	June 8, 2020	August 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives the in-person component of the state agency’s required monitoring activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections and approvals under the original waiver may continue without further action. • States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. • 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.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #32	Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers	SSO, SFSP	June 10, 2020	August 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends all individually-issued state waivers allowing SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing to operate open summer meals sites located in areas that do not meet the definition of “areas in which poor economic conditions exist,” or areas where more than half of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States must notify USDA if they elect to utilize this extension. • This applies to all sites approved under the previous waiver and plan. • States must continue to work with sponsors and operators to target benefits to children in need. • USDA reserves the right to withdraw approval based on funding availability.
N/A	FFCRA Opt-In Waiver for SY2020-2021 NSLP USDA Foods Entitlement Calculations	NSLP	June 16, 2020	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows SDAs to keep their preliminary SY2020-2021 USDA Foods entitlement, based on SY2018-2019 lunches served. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDAs must notify the USDA if they plan to opt in by September 15, 2020. • Allows SDAs to forgo the usual November reconciliation in 2020 that would adjust the preliminary entitlement to reflect SY2019-2020 lunches served.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #33	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION #2	NSLP (SSO), SBP, CACFP	June 25, 2020	June 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for consumption of meals off-site and outside of group settings. This allows for serving models like grab-n-go, curbside pick-up, mobile/bus routes, and home delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial or complete building closures that are planned will not count as unanticipated school closures during SY2020-2021 and may not be claimed through SFSP or SSO.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #34	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility in the NSLP, SBP, and CACFP - EXTENSION	NSLP (SSO), SBP, CACFP	June 25, 2020	June 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides flexibility for serving times. Allows for serving multiple meals for the same day at one time and also meals for multiple days at the same time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators must still establish meal service times or delivery times.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #35	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children – EXTENSION #2	NSLP (SSO), SBP, CACFP	June 25, 2020	June 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for distributing meals to adults without a child present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States need to ensure integrity and are instructed to work with operators on ways to verify that adults have eligible children.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #36	Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION #4	NSLP (SSO), SBP, CACFP	June 25, 2020	June 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators must get advance approval from their state agency. State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis and must inform their regional office when, where, and for which components the waiver is in effect. USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #37	Nationwide Waiver to Allow OVS Flexibility for Senior High Schools in the NSLP for SY 2020–2021	NSLP	June 25, 2020	June 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates the requirement for senior high schools participating in the NSLP to implement OVS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is intended to make it easier for schools to serve pre-plated meals in the classroom if needed or to offer multi-day meal kits to students engaged in distance learning.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #38	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the SFSP - EXTENSION 5	SFSP	July 30, 2020	August 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components. Clarifies that Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION #4 applies to the SSO since it is part of NSLP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators must get advance approval from their state agency. State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis. USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues. Elections and approvals under COVID-19 #4, #13, #24 or #26 continue without further action.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #39	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP Sponsors	CACFP	August 4, 2020	September 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives the in-person component of a sponsor's required monitoring activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlike previous monitoring waivers for CACFP sponsors, this does not waive other monitoring requirements (like the annual number or how many must be unannounced). • Sponsors must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #40	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP State Agencies – EXTENSION 2	CACFP	August 4, 2020	September 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives the in-person component of the state agency's required monitoring activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections and approvals under the original waiver or its extension may continue without further action. • States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. • The annual review waiver expires September 30, 2020.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #41	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs – Revised – EXTENSION 2	NSLP (SSO), SBP	August 4, 2020	June 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives the onsite monitoring requirement for state agencies and SFAs. • Waives the requirement to complete the onsite portion of an administrative review within the same school year that the review was begun. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies to both state agencies and SFAs that elect to use it without further application. • Elections and approvals under the original waiver or its extension may continue without further action. • State agencies that choose to conduct the onsite portion at a later time should submit an amendment to any previously provided documentation when significant changes or updates occur.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #42	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP Sponsoring Organizations – EXTENSION 2	SFSP	August 4, 2020	September 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections and approvals under the original waiver or its extension may continue without further action. • Sponsors must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. • The first week site visit waiver expires September 30, 2020.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #43	Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP State Agencies – EXTENSION 2	SFSP	August 4, 2020	September 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waives the in-person component of the state agency's required monitoring activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections and approvals under the original waiver or its extension may continue without further action. • States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits.

Glossary of Acronyms & Terms

- **CACFP:** Child and Adult Care Food Program
- **FFCRA:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- **Families First Coronavirus Response Act:** a COVID-19 relief bill passed by Congress in March that gave the USDA nationwide waiver authority)
- **FFVP:** Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- **FSMC:** Food Service Management Company
- **ISP:** Identified Student Percentage
- **LEA:** Local Education Agency (typically a school district)
- **NSLP:** National School Lunch Program
- **PPE:** Personal protective equipment, which includes items like face masks
- **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
- **SDA:** State Distributing Agency
- **State Distributing Agency:** The state government agency that oversees USDA Foods
- **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
- **SMP:** Special Milk Program
- **SSO:** NSLP Seamless Summer Option
- **SY:** School Year
- **OVS:** Offer Versus Serve