

Best Practices for Bus Stop Meal Delivery During COVID-19

- If possible, avoid face-to-face interactions when delivering meals. Instead, practice “no contact” deliveries, where the food is placed in a cooler, box, or other object for retrieval by the recipient, or on a table or cart set up temporarily at the bus stop. Do not hand a delivery directly to the recipient. Maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet during interactions with recipients, such as placing food and stepping away to allow individuals to retrieve items.
- If you will not see the children when making the delivery, make sure you have an accurate count of children requiring meals ahead of time. You could use a pre-request system or ask the household to leave a note on the cooler, or other location where meals are to be left. If you will not see the children, please include a label on the meals indicating that they are intended for consumption by children age 18 and under.
- Recipients should not enter the bus or delivery vehicle to receive their meals.
- If face-to-face interactions cannot be avoided, maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from other people. 6 feet is about the length of a standard sofa or a twin bed.
- In food delivery communications, share expectations for households to practice appropriate social distancing at bus stops to begin to normalize the pick-up process.
- It is difficult to normalize the 6-foot distance, and you may feel rude asking children and their caregivers to step back. Do it anyway. It will take time for us to learn the new social norms around distance, and it is important to draw attention to it every time someone mistakenly comes too close. Be kind and calm, but forceful.
- Remind households waiting at the bus stop to maintain a distance of 6 feet between households when waiting. This may be difficult if young children view this is an opportunity to play with each other. You may want to advise caregivers to leave children at home with another caregiver or in their car during pickup, or come up with games that can be played at a distance.
- The person making the delivery should separate out each households’ meals, if possible, rather than having each household take their meals and milk out of a common box, cooler, or crate at the same time.



- Those making deliveries should clean their hands between each delivery to avoid spreading the virus from recipient to recipient. Ideally, hands should be cleaned by thorough handwashing with soap and water, however this can be hard to achieve on a delivery route. Instead, a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- If the delivery staff are wearing gloves, gloves can be sanitized by dipping gloved hands in a 1:100 bleach solution for one minute. Due to a lack of critical supplies for medical workers, we do not recommend relying on disposable gloves to prevent contact transmission. Instead, you could use dishwashing or other durable gloves and sanitize them in the bleach solution in between stops.
- Recipients should be advised to wash their hands thoroughly after handling any packaging and before consuming any delivery.
- No one who feels at all sick should participate in delivery - even if it is not the coronavirus. Flu and other diseases that are still circulating can take up precious hospital resources that are needed to treat serious cases.
- If multiple people are on the delivery team (i.e., driver and delivery person), try to maintain a 6-foot distance between these team members as much possible. Some examples might be using the rear exit of the bus to load and unload the vehicle and having the delivery person sit in the rear passenger seats.
- Limit the delivery team to as few people as can feasibly operate the delivery. Keep the same teams together each day, rather than mixing up teams. This will reduce transmission opportunity among the entire delivery staff.
- Consider offering multiple days' worth of meals at a time, to reduce the number of distribution days. With approval from [Child Nutrition Programs](#), you may distribute up to one weeks' worth of meals at a time.
- Delivery personnel should follow the standard guidance to:
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Cover your coughs and sneezes with your sleeve or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Staff should be advised that aside from this critical work, they should stay home and practice social distancing if they must go out.

Please note: If you are delivering meals by bus and planning to stay at the bus stop for 30 minutes or more, please include the site as a separate Site Application in the SFSP Application Packet. Otherwise, include the information about planned stops in Question 43 of your Site Application.