

Frequently Asked Questions From Child and Adult Care Food Program Sponsors During COVID-19

Volume 3

- 1. Can child care centers receive meals at an open summer meals site, to serve to children enrolled in care? Can centers claim these meals for reimbursement?**

Child care centers may receive meals from an open summer meals site for children enrolled in care. However, the center may not claim these meals for reimbursement in the CACFP. Meals and snacks must be prepared and served by the child care center to enrolled children in order to claim meals and snacks.

- 2. Can schools operating an open summer meals site provide meals to child care centers?**

Yes. School Food Authorities (SFAs) can provide meals to an eligible child care center and claim these meals under SFSP. If SFAs are delivering meals to a childcare center, they must add the center as a site and ensure the childcare center is not also planning to claim reimbursement for the meals. Childcare centers may obtain grab n' go meals from an SFA's open sites if the open site is offering meals in that manner. Please contact Jamie Curley at Jamie.curley@vermont.gov or (802)-828-2010 with specific questions about when to add a childcare center as a separate site.

- 3. Should we be wearing facial masks?**

Vermonters should wear cloth facial masks, or coverings, if they need to leave their homes for essential purposes like going grocery shopping or to the pharmacy. They should also wear facial masks outdoors if other people are nearby.

The advice to wear cloth masks is based on new data about how COVID-19 can spread *before* a person has any symptoms. Some people may have COVID-19 but will never develop symptoms. Wearing a face mask may help keep those individuals from spreading the virus as well. Face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing and other prevention measures. Read the [CDC's Guidance on how to use and make cloth face masks](#) and watch [this video](#) of the U.S. Surgeon General demonstrating how to make your own face covering using items around the house.



Medical-grade mask supplies are needed for our health care workers and first responders. Please use cloth or other recommended facial coverings for yourself and loved ones.

4. **Have flexibilities been granted for monitoring requirements in CACFP?**

USDA released a nationwide waiver on March 27, 2020 to waive some of the monitoring requirements for CACFP. USDA has waived the following related to CACFP sponsor monitoring:

- For this current review year, **CACFP sponsors may conduct two reviews of their CACFP sites.**
- For this current review year, **only one CACFP site review must be unannounced.**
- For this current review year, **unannounced site visits do not have to include a meal service observation.**
- For this current review year, **site visits can have more than six months that have elapsed between visits.**

USDA has **not** waived the requirement to perform a site review within the first four weeks of operation for new sites. **However, the first visit does not have to occur on-site rather it can be performed through a desk audit.**

5. **Can Sponsors bring on new sites during this time?**

Yes. Sponsors can bring on new sites during this time as long as the sites meet the requirements to participate under normal circumstances. However, sponsors must still perform a pre-approval visit and a visit within the first four weeks of operation. USDA released a nationwide waiver on March 27, 2020 to waive the requirement to perform the first visit on-site.

Sponsors a variety of ways they can continue to fulfill these requirements. They can perform pre-approval visits over the telephone or computer and provide materials via mail or email. Pre-approval visits must include a discussion of Program benefits and requirements, and sponsors must ensure providers can run their proposed food service. A site application must be entered into the CNP application and claiming system and be approved by the State agency for the site to participate in the CACFP.

Sponsors must still complete the first week visit within four weeks of the site operating the CACFP. However, this visit does not have to occur on-site and can be completed by a desk audit. The sponsor should review all hardcopy materials that are typically reviewed during an on-site review. This would include reviewing copies of up-to-date attendance records, enrollment and income eligibility forms (if applicable), menus, meal records, meal counts, performing the 5-day reconciliation, etc.

6. Do I have to perform a visit within the first four weeks of operation for new sites?

Yes. USDA has **not** waived the requirement to perform a site review within the first four weeks of operation for new sites. However, the first visit does not have to occur on-site and can be performed by a desk audit. The sponsor should review all hardcopy materials that are typically reviewed during an on-site review. This includes reviewing copies of up-to-date attendance records, enrollment and income eligibility forms (if applicable), menus, meal records, meal counts, performing the 5-day reconciliation, etc.

7. Will the claim deadline be extended passed the 60-day claiming deadline during COVID-19?

USDA released a Nationwide Waiver on April 1, 2020, that waives the 60-day claim deadline for the January and February 2020 claim months. Deadlines for these two claims months are extended 30 calendar days beyond their original required date of submission. January 2020 claims for reimbursement must be submitted on or before April 30, 2020, and February 2020 claim for reimbursement must be submitted on or before May 29, 2020. Sponsors are still encouraged to submit claims in a timely manner.