

## School Nutrition COVID-19 Guidance

During times of school closure, children should continue to receive meals. This document serves as a simple guidance resource to continue providing nutritious meals during the event a Local Education Agency (LEA) or School Food Authority (SFA) decides to close due to COVID-19.

The state agency has been approved for [two waivers](#). The waivers allow SFAs to provide school meals to all children under the age of 18 years through the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during unanticipated school closures at school and non-school sites in area eligible locations. The waiver also provides the flexibility to feed children utilizing non-congregate feeding sites.

If a LEA or SFA decides to close schools due to COVID-19 and decides to feed students utilizing SSO, districts MUST contact the school nutrition state agency before serving meals under SSO.

Once the state agency has been notified, the SFA may begin serving meals. SFAs must submit SSO application prior to reimbursement. All listed options below may take place at school sites or non-school sites. A child must be present to receive a meal regardless of delivery option.

Options for serving meals may include, but are not limited to:

- **Drive-thru/walk up.** May include having parents drive/walk to the school's pick up/drop off lane and meals would be provided to children present.
- **Grab-N-Go.** May include sack lunches/pre-packaged meals served from community sites or buses at designated stops.
  - District transportation funds may be utilized to help with costs during this type of service.
- **Traditional meal service line.** Meals could be consumed on site or taken off site. If this option is implemented, be sure to be take social distancing precautions.

Districts are encouraged to utilize non-profits, local faith based organizations and state guard efforts for distribution of school meals. Many local emergency management offices maintain alternate feeding plans, which may be utilized. Districts are encouraged to work with community partners to expand meal service to adults during this time. Community partners may include: Meals on Wheels, Commission on Aging and Disability, and Tennessee Afterschool Network.

All food safety precautions and federal regulations pertaining to meal counting and claiming are still required.

All activities must be appropriately documented to remain eligible for reimbursement and emergency relief reimbursement.