

## General Health and COVID-19 Guidance

### Guidance and Best Practices for School Nutrition Personnel

This document will serve as guidance during unanticipated school closures due to COVID-19 of best practices during meal service operation for school food authorities. As a reminder, all practices are at local level discretion. For more information please coordinate with local health services, county, and regional health departments. For more information and up-to-date guidance regarding COVID-19, please visit the department's [website](#).

**Stay home if you feel sick or show signs of a fever.** Although, you may be considered essential personnel, please refrain from reporting to work if you feel sick or have a fever. For more information about symptoms related to COVID-19 please contact the Department of Health at 877-857-2945. *Staff members should take their temperature before reporting to work and stay home if they have a fever. Furthermore, addressing additional measures, such as taking employee temperatures before coming in contact with staff, children, and food would be a local level best practice.*

**If you have general health related questions utilize local resources.** If you have general health questions please reach out to your school district health services staff. As a reminder, work with your local health care professionals for additional best practices, such as temperature checks before starting a shift.

**Reach out to partners.** If you would like to help monitor the wellness of your staff, please utilize partners and resources you may already have available. For example, partnering with Coordinated School Health and health services staff may be a valuable resource to help combat any health issues from arising.

**Minimize contact and limit exposure.** In order to best serve children during this time, please attempt to minimize contact you may have at meal service sites. For example, if your district is capable of safely providing meals to children twice a week instead of daily, the state agency encourages to limit exposure as much as possible.

**Serving children and working in food service.** Be sure to take all normal food safety precautions, while also practicing social distancing and implementing any guidance your district has provided that directly relates to your role. Serving children is of top priority during this time, however, serving children in the safest ways possible is vital.

**Actively participate in social distancing.** Whether you are working to feed children, or at home, take all social distancing precautions that have been provided by your local health authorities and other national and global organizations. Continuously participating in social distancing even when you are not working may help to limit potential exposure to COVID-19. Limiting exposure during

your time off of work, will help to limit exposure at the time you must report back to work.

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