



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

NSLP CN# 02-08
SFSP CN# 01-08

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Health & Nutrition Program Sponsors

FROM: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services

Kacey Frey, NSLP Health Director
Arizona Department of Education, School Health & Nutrition Programs

DATE: July 5, 2007

SUBJECT: Operation of Child Nutrition Programs During a Pandemic

Original Signed

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are intended to support institutional feeding operations. The current regulations assume that these programs will operate in a congregate setting, either at schools or community organizations. During the outbreak of a pandemic disease, public health officials expect the need for “social distancing” to decrease the spread of illness by limiting person-to-person contact. Therefore, when social distancing is in effect, schools and other facilities may be closed, and the operation of the NSLP, SBP and SFSP may not be possible.

Facilities and equipment typically used in the operation of the NSLP, SBP, or SFSP may be used for other activities during a pandemic outbreak. Additionally, in a Presidentially-declared disaster, Program commodities and other foods would be available for distribution to community groups or public agencies. However, although facilities or commodities could be used, their use would not be related to the NSLP, SBP, or SFSP.

Finally, there may be a need for waiving program requirements relating to operational procedures, review requirements, or meal patterns depending on the nature and scope of the outbreak. However, the usefulness and applicability of such waivers during a pandemic would, of course, be dependent on the scope of the outbreak and the limitations on person-to-person contact in any given area.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this memo, please contact your assigned School Health & Nutrition Program Specialist at 602-542-8700.

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