**Maine Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)- School Year 2021**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

***Serving Options and Waivers***

**Can I send FFVP home with meals during remote days?**

Yes, the Child Nutrition office has a meal time flexibility waiver in place so FFVP can be sent home with other meals. If the school district applies for and is approved to do multiple meal distribution, multiple days of FFVP can be sent home as well, or offered in bulk.

**Can FFVP be offered at meal pick up locations?**

Yes, the Child Nutrition office has a parent/guardian pick up waiver in place. This is also true for meal delivery. If a school that is not approved for FFVP is the meal pick up site, we have a site eligibility waiver in place to allow that school to distribute FFVP as well.

**Can I serve FFVP through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)?**

Yes, keep in mind you will need to file a separate claim in NSLP each month, just for FFVP.

**Can I serve FFVP with other meals, such as breakfast or lunch?**

Yes, this is allowed under USDA memo SP 23-2020. It can be served with other meals to streamline meal service. However; it must be a separate component from the fruits and vegetables offered with the breakfast and lunch meal.

**What if I can’t serve FFVP in the classroom (does not allow 6 feet distancing) and not enough time to serve in the cafeteria? What are my options?**

Because Maine has a meal time flexibility waiver, if it becomes an issue to serve FFVP during the school day, the FFVP snack can be sent home with students. FFVP can also be offered with lunch, with the intention of bringing the snack home.

**We typically send a container of FFVP items in each classroom and have the teachers pass out. Is this still allowed?**

Yes, as long as the container is covered and teachers follow proper food safety practices, such as washing hands on putting on gloves, prior to serving, this is allowed. Students are just not allowed to self-serve, according to CDC guidance.

**Do we have to serve individually wrapped items for FFVP?**

This is a local decision. CDC guidance just states that self-serving is not permitted.

**How long are these FFVP flexibilities in place for?**

According to the USDA memo SP 23-2020, they are effective through the end of the school year- June 30, 2021.

***Funding***

**If I participated in FFVP in SY 2020, and have unused funds will my funds roll into the new school year?**

Yes, but only until September 30th. At which point, any remaining funds will be returned to USDA. Funding amounts are listed in the [FFVP Usage](https://neo.maine.gov/doe/neo/nutrition/ReportDashboard) Report in NEO.

**If I was awarded FFVP for SY 2021, when does my funding begin?**

October 1st. It will run from October 2020 through September 2021 (across two school years). Keep this in mind when budgeting. Funding amounts are listed in the [FFVP Usage](https://neo.maine.gov/doe/neo/nutrition/ReportDashboard) Report in NEO.

**How do I know if I was approved for FFVP in SY 2021?**

A list of awarded schools is posted on our website: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/programs/ffvp>.