

Frequently Asked Questions

Non-Congregate Meal Service Waivers for Unanticipated Remote Learning

- 1) **What are these waivers for?** These waivers are to allow for reimbursement for school breakfast and school lunch meals served remotely during unanticipated school closures. Remote learning must be taking place.
- 2) **What is an unanticipated school closure?** When the school building is closed for in-person learning (and congregate dining) due to natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders related to school safety, labor management disputes, or for adverse weather conditions causing school closure.
- 3) **What waivers can I ask for?** Non-congregate meals, parent guardian pick-up, meal service times, and Offer Versus Serve at the high school level.
- 4) **How and when can I request a waiver?** These waivers are applicable February 6 through June 30, 2023. They must be requested at time of need. It is okay if this happens as soon as possible after the closure. You can make your request here: <https://forms.office.com/g/616P2dke8e> . DOE staff will review the request and follow-up.
- 5) **Do I use these waivers if our school is going remote due to COVID-19?** No, we have a separate waiver request and approval process for COVID-19. Please contact Child Nutrition staff for information on COVID-29 waivers in SY 2023.
- 6) **Can I request the waivers now in case there is an unanticipated snow day in the future?** No, please request the waivers at the time of need. This can be the day before you know the school is closing and using remote learning due to weather or as soon as possible after the event.
- 7) **Must meals be distributed on the actual remote day?** No, for instance, meals can be offered the day before if an unanticipated snow day occurs. However, there must be education that the meals are intended for consumption on the remote day. Food safety instructions should be provided and students should be offered the meal, not required to take the meal.
- 8) **Can breakfast and lunch be bundled?** These meals can be bundled and counted at point of service for the day of intended consumption. Please be sure to separate counts for breakfast and lunch. The non-congregate and meal time waiver allow for this.
- 9) **Can one school (out of 8 for example) act as a single serving site to serve meals for all sites or is it still site based claiming?** One site can be used for remote meal distribution due to the waivers we have. However, meals must be counted by student. So there needs to be a plan to be able to claim meals as received by student status.

- 10) Can I use a tick sheet?** Not if the school is in a Special Provision 2 base year or operating traditional NSLP. In those cases, you must count meals by student status. A student roster may be used.
- 11) What if remote learning is not taking place?** Please contact Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition to discuss SSO/SFSP options available.
- 12) On 2-hour delay events, can households pick up breakfast before the school day begins?** A delay is not a school closure. This would not be allowed.