Nutrition

Food and Food System Resources During COVID-19 Pandemic

The following resources are for individuals and families seeking food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidance is also available for food assistance programs and food system stakeholders.

Children

- Food preparation and meal service for child care programs.
- Meals while schools are closed:
    - Ensuring students have meals ☐ .
    - Interactive map for finding meals for kids ☐ .
    - State guidance on pandemic electronic benefits transfers (P-EBT) for student meals ☐ .
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) physical presence waiver ☐ .

Individual and Families

- Food finder ☐ for free food assistance programs for children and families.
- Healthy eating tips.
- Start simple ☐ food planning with MyPlate.
- Tips for grocery shopping during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Using the updated nutrition facts label ☐ .
- Hunger hotline from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for information on meal sites, food banks, and other services near you. Call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE for Spanish. Hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Eastern Time Monday through Friday.
- Hunger hotline text option. Text 97779 with question that contains a keyword such as "food" or "meals". The automated response will include resources located near an address and/or zip code.
- Meals on Wheels for individuals with diminished mobility who are generally aged 60 and older, although age requirements can vary. Find a provider online ☐ .

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The hotline is managed by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Food Assistance Programs

- Farmers

to Families ↗ food box program from USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service.
- USDA's Food and Nutrition Service COVID-19 response ↗ .
- Immigrant eligibility ↗ for public programs during COVID-19.
- State flexibilities in The Emergency Food Assistance Program ↗ (TEFAP).
- USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency allotments ↗ guidance.
- Sustaining nutritional needs for at-risk individuals 📄 ↗ [PDF-370KB].
- State waivers in child nutrition programs ↗ .

Federally–Recognized Tribes or Tribal Organizations

- CDC: Partnering with American Indian tribes and Alaska Native entities to respond to COVID-19.
- USDA food distribution for income-eligible households on Indian reservations ↗ and to Native American households residing in designated areas near reservations or in Oklahoma.
- USDA tribal nation COVID-19 waivers and flexibilities ↗ .
- National Indian Health Board National Tribal COVID-19 Response 📄 [PDF-239KB] ↗ to food security and nutrition.

Restaurant and Food Retail Venues

- Best practices and food safety reopening checklist ↗ for food retail venues.

- Best practices ↗ for retail food stores, restaurants, and food pick-up/delivery services.
- Food safety ↗ and COVID-19.
- Series of business practice documents ↗ for the food industry.
- Tips for businesses and workplaces to plan, prepare, and respond.
- Considerations for restaurants and bars to protect employees, customers, and communities.
- What grocery and food retail workers need to know about COVID-19.

Food Systems

- Cleaning and disinfecting public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools, and homes.
- COVID-19 confirmed positive or exposed workers ↗ in food production, storage, or distribution operations regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.
- Critical infrastructure workers who may have had exposure to a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Identifying critical infrastructure sectors and essential workers ↗, including food and agricultural workers.
- Infection prevention 📄 ↗ [PDF-1.2MB] for agricultural employers and employees (California example).
- Guidance for manufacturing workers and employers.
- Guidance for meat and poultry processors.
- Protecting workers ↗ from exposure and infection.

Rural Areas

- Guidance for agriculture workers and employers.
- Potential resources for seasonal farmworker housing 📄 ↗ [PDF-206KB].
- Rural guide 📄 ↗ [PDF-441KB] from the USDA.
- Rural Health Information Hub ↗ supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

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