



Division of Food and Recreational Safety

March 25, 2020

Providing Meals to Wisconsin Students During School Closures

Dear valued school food service operator,

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) wants to provide you with additional information from Gov. Tony Evers' [proclamation](#) directing the Department of Health Services (DHS) to close all public/private schools and institutions of higher education.

The directive instructs schools to remain closed for the duration of the public health emergency, or until a subsequent order lifts this restriction.

One common question: **Schools want to continue providing meals to students during school closures by means of pickup, delivery or drive-up. What types of foods may be provided?**

Exemptions in the emergency order allow you to provide food in the following ways:

- Food may be available to students via delivery, drive-up or pickup locations.
- All food must come from an approved source, including whole fruits and vegetables and canned/packaged foods.
- When frozen food items that require reheating are provided, the items must be from an approved source and may only be precooked animal foods, grain or cheese-based. That's including, but not limited to: frozen, precooked chicken nuggets; quesadillas; and cheese-filled breadsticks.

- If food provided is to be reheated by the student, instructions must be provided. That includes reheating to a temperature of 165 degrees, and instructions to hold at 41 degrees or below until used.
- Foods for hot and cold service must be prepared at the school kitchen by trained kitchen staff according to the proper time-temperature control and kept at proper holding temperatures throughout the pickup or delivery process.

Contact your local school food service staff if you have specific questions on safely preparing food. This order will remain in effect for the duration of the public health emergency declared in Order No. 72, or until a superseding order is issued.

Here are a few links and resources that might be helpful for you during this challenging time as well,

- [COVID-19 Information](#)
- [COVID-19 Facts: Why Social Distancing](#)
- [COVID-19 Facts: Protect Your Family](#)
- [Wisconsin Food Code Fact Sheets](#)

Thank you for your role in reducing the spread of COVID-19. If you have questions, please send them to datcpfoodcomplaintsemergencyresponse@wisconsin.gov

Sincerely,

The Division of Food and Recreational Safety

