

# Distributing Bulk Food Items During A Covid-19 School Related Closure

Form 246  
Sept. 2020

SFAs may provide bulk food items as long as individual meals are easily identifiable as reimbursable meals. As stated in USDA Memo SP 13-2020, SFAs are not required to submit a waiver to begin distributing bulk food items. Bulk item distribution is acceptable when no more than 7 days' worth of meals are being distributed at once. Limited distribution days will help reduce contact between staff and families and ensure compliance with social distancing measures. Contact your food distributors regarding availability, if your SFA chooses to distribute bulk food items to students during this time.

## **Reminders**

- It is strongly encouraged to provide families with detailed instructions on the portions and servings of each component that constitute a reimbursable meal.
- Daily production records for both breakfast and lunch should reflect the portion of each component as it credits towards the reimbursable meal and *NOT* the bulk amounts.
- Each required food component must be provided in at least the minimum amount for each reimbursable meal being claimed.
- Foods must be distributed with limited need for preparation at home. Raw meat and uncooked grains must *NOT* be part of meal bags.
- SFAs must consider whether families have access to adequate storage and refrigeration before deciding to distribute food items in bulk.
- Follow food safety guidelines, HACCP regulations, and guidance from the local health department.

## **Suggested Items to Distribute in Bulk**

\*Available through USDA Foods

- Fresh, canned and dried fruit\*
- Fresh and canned vegetables\*
- Legumes\*
- Juice\*
- Cheese\*
- Yogurt\*
- Milk
- Granola
- Cereal\*
- Prepared salads
- Prepared sides

## **Example**

A SFA is serving breakfast and lunch meals on a weekly basis to students (5 days worth of meals) using the K-8 Meal Pattern.

1. Milk for one student for the week = 80 ounces; Student receives a ½ gallon of milk + two 8oz cartons
2. Applesauce is served with 2 breakfast meals and 2 lunch meals = Student receives 3 cups of applesauce in total