




State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FOOD AND NUTRITION
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To: All New Jersey School Food Authorities and Sponsoring Organizations Participating in the United States Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Programs

From: Rose Tricario, Division Director 

Date: April 2, 2020

Subject: NJDOE OEM On-site Observations

Preventing lapses in food security while schools are closed to students has been an important part of the Murphy Administration's response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Several state agencies are collaborating to provide oversight of and support for schools and districts as they strive to meet their students' nutritional needs while schools remain closed due to the public health emergency.

While it is the responsibility of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) to enforce any and all rules governing participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's various Child Nutrition Programs (USDA), the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has partnered with State and Local Offices of Emergency Management (OEM) to help ensure that food is distributed in accordance with recommended social distancing best practices and NJDOE/OEM safety and security guidelines. These additional guidelines, which are specific to the delivery of meals during the COVID-19 outbreak, are independent of and unrelated to USDA and NJDA rules governing participation in Child Nutrition Programs. The NJDOE's observations and other forms of assistance provided to districts and schools are not meant to enforce, or otherwise serve as any oversight over, the established Child Nutrition Program requirements for meal reimbursement. Rather, NJDOE's on-site observations are solely meant to assist districts and schools in improving meal delivery processes in ways that are consistent with COVID-19-related health, safety, and security guidelines.