



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

September 24, 2009

TO: Authorized Representative – Child Nutrition Programs

FROM: Karen Wooton, Coordinator- School Food Services

SUBJECT: Meal Service during School Closures Related to H1N1

If a public health emergency is declared because of an outbreak of the H1N1 flu, which leads to the closure of schools, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will be permitted to continue providing reimbursable meals to children enrolled in the closed schools. This memorandum outlines the steps you must take to obtain a waiver, under the National School Lunch Program's "Seamless Summer Option" (SSO), which will permit you to provide meals during a forced school closure. The SSO program is administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

If your school or district also participates in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), administered by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), you will be receiving *separate* correspondence from the DHSS about claiming reimbursable meals through that program, in the event of H1N1-related school closures.

If your LEA is interested in maintaining food service operations in the event of school closures, please complete and return the waiver form that accompanies this memo. ([H1N1 SSO Waiver](#)) Mail or fax the completed form to the DESE, School Food Services Section.

Under policies announced by the USDA, LEAs will have significant flexibility to provide meals for low-income children during a forced school closure. Prior participation in the Seamless Summer Option program is NOT required for LEAs to seek a waiver. All schools – regardless of the percentage of free and reduced price eligible children – may apply for the SSO waiver. All children under age 18 who reside in the same household will be eligible for meals if at least one child from that household is enrolled in the school.

Please review the accompanying "Questions & Answers" document which provides detailed guidance about how schools may continue to deliver meals during a public health emergency.

Waiver requests must be reviewed and approved by DESE; please submit your request as soon as possible. If you have questions, contact [Karen Wooton](#) or call the School Food Services Section (573.751.3526).