



July 3, 2023

Announcements from the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)



Non-congregate Meal Waivers Available for Air Quality Advisory Days

DPI has received approval from USDA to allow SFSP and SSO sponsors, in good standing, to request to waive the congregate meal service requirement, at approved outdoor meal sites without alternative indoor sites, on days when the area is experiencing certain air quality advisories. Under this waiver, the threshold for determining when non-congregate meal service is allowed will be based on metrics developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), which are designed to help determine when to move activities indoors. Using these metrics, which equate to very unhealthy or hazardous air quality, sites may be approved for non-congregate meal service on days when the site's zip code has an Air Quality Index (AQI) "purple" flag or higher, as indicated at <https://www.airnow.gov/>. For days when air quality is a concern, but the purple flag threshold is not met, it is recommended that sponsors with outdoor sites consider the outdoor activity guidance developed by the EPA and the CDC.

This targeted waiver is intended to ensure continuity of the meal service at outdoor sites on days when the daily AQI color is purple or higher and makes service of congregate meals impractical or dangerous. Approved outdoor sites must comply with congregate meal service requirements on all other days of operation. Outdoor sites with available alternative indoor sites may not use this waiver and should serve meals at the alternative site if the area is experiencing an AQI color of purple or higher. Other program requirements, including those pertaining to the number and type of meals that may be served each day and meal service times, continue to apply.

Sponsors must be approved to provide non-congregate meals prior to the air quality alert day. If interested in applying for this waiver, please send an email to sfsp@dpi.wi.gov.

As a reminder, SFSP and SSO sponsors, in good standing, may also request to waive the congregate meal service requirement, at approved outdoor meal sites that are not temperature-controlled, on days when the area is experiencing excessive heat. Non-congregate meal service may be offered only on days when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Heat Advisory, an Excessive Heat Warning, or an Excessive Heat

Watch for the area in which an approved outdoor meal site is located. If interested in applying for this waiver, please send an email to sfsp@dpi.wi.gov.



Program Abbreviation/Definition Key

- SFA**=School Food Authority
- SSO**=Seamless Summer Option
- SFSP**=Summer Food Service Program

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Community Nutrition Team
125 South Webster Street
P.O. Box 7841, Madison WI 53707-7841
Phone (608) 267-9129



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

