

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:07.050

Yearwood, Shannon

Hi everybody, and thank you so much for joining us for a School Lunch Tray table talk or relaunch for 2022.

00:00:08.250 --> 00:00:37.470

Yearwood, Shannon

First and foremost. I want to thank all of you for all of the work that you continue to do during these continually unprecedented times that we're in and I should probably introduce myself. I'm Shannon Yearwood the Education Manager with the Child Nutrition Programs at the Connecticut State Department of Education. I add we are recording. This session, so that you are aware you probably got a banner that says that, so I'm so delighted to be joined by my teammates here to help relaunch this and help

00:00:37.680 --> 00:01:09.780

Yearwood, Shannon

provide you the information you need to be able to operate during the school year and beyond, so we know there's a lot of changes there's a lot of nuances to the program this year. So, what we're going to do it. We we hope you like our new format for School Lunch Tray and this new year as well. We thought it would be helpful so that we really point out to you, which items you need to act on which ones you need to know and the information that's good to know so let us know if that's working for you and we will continue with that format.

00:01:09.830 --> 00:01:15.880

Yearwood, Shannon

If you like a different format like the old format certainly let us know that too. We wanna make it as useful to you as possible

00:01:16.370 --> 00:01:20.700

Yearwood, Shannon

And so with that I am going to.

00:01:22.360 --> 00:01:24.730

Yearwood, Shannon

Look at my at my run of show here.

00:01:26.750 --> 00:01:32.010

Yearwood, Shannon

And I wanted to say so. Our first if so, Susan Fiore are you able to see are you on yet

00:01:33.200 --> 00:01:35.460

Yearwood, Shannon

Are you able to share your screen please

00:01:40.020 --> 00:01:40.580

Yearwood, Shannon

Thank you.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:01:41.200 --> 00:02:09.570

Yearwood, Shannon

Alright so we're going to go through this at the at the School Lunch Tray not from January 5th yet. We'll do that at the end, so we're going to jump a little bit out of order and go to last week's School Lunch Tray for the Table Talk, for this relaunch. We are gonna go. We're gonna pay particular attention to the action items and the need-to-know items where we will definitely concentrate on those and also our Resource Roundup. We want to make sure that you know exactly where to find those resources.

00:02:10.590 --> 00:02:15.900

Yearwood, Shannon

That Susan Fiore would you mind going to last week 's so ask well let's try please.

00:02:18.420 --> 00:02:19.820

Yearwood, Shannon

Yeah, kick it off at that one.

00:02:24.140 --> 00:02:40.560

Yearwood, Shannon

And as for those of you, joining us we have 3 Susan's on our team, which is why we call everybody by their full first by their full names in case you're wondering about that, so with that. I am going to go ahead and kick it on over to my colleague Caroline so that cover our first topics.

00:02:42.190 --> 00:02:45.690

Cooke, Caroline

Yeah, I get the first topic of the New Year Happy New Year everyone.

00:02:45.740 --> 00:03:01.390

Cooke, Caroline

And so I'm happy to talk very, very briefly about the change in the Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rates and I know many of you were anticipating. This change and some of you may be a little bit confused about why the SFSP key.

00:03:02.150 --> 00:03:13.680

Cooke, Caroline

Reimbursement rate changes something we want to talk about but for anyone that is operating SSO. This school year for school year 2021 into 2022.

00:03:14.310 --> 00:03:23.970

Cooke, Caroline

Uhm you are eligible to receive the Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement rate through the school year so that will take us through June 30th.

00:03:24.300 --> 00:03:44.410

Cooke, Caroline

Uhm when school ends and those rates do change a little bit differently for SFSP than they do for

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

NSLP SBP and SSO and so the reimbursement rates for the school nutrition programs follow a timeline that makes sense. They followed July first through June 30th.

00:03:44.960 --> 00:04:07.320

Cooke, Caroline

And that goes along with the program year but because we are not usually operating summer meals during the school year. It's not usually an issue that we have an odd timing difference. However, for SFSP at the reimbursement rates. Apply January, one through December 31st so that's why we're experiencing this change mid school year.

00:04:08.090 --> 00:04:38.460

Cooke, Caroline

It was released in the Federal Register on January 10th of this year and it was effective for meals served January first and on so that means you would not have seen those reimbursement rate changes when you were preparing and submitting your December claim this month, although they're effective for January. They're effective for meals served starting in January. So, you will see those new reimbursement rates when you start preparing and submitting your January

00:04:38.580 --> 00:04:40.130

Cooke, Caroline

2022 claims.

00:04:40.790 --> 00:04:41.200

Cooke, Caroline

Ah.

00:04:42.400 --> 00:04:44.830

Cooke, Caroline

Excuse me the numbers are odd.

00:04:45.480 --> 00:05:04.750

Cooke, Caroline

And when you look at the school on straight. It shows you what the reimbursement rates are for lunch. And for breakfast. And it's the odd numbers are based on an administrative rates versus operating rates for the Summer Food Tray Programs so they do round out to 4 decimal points.

00:05:05.370 --> 00:05:14.150

Cooke, Caroline

And then the final thing I just wanted to let you know for any of you that work for or school districts that contract with food service management companies.

00:05:15.000 --> 00:05:44.290

Cooke, Caroline

We did have a good question that came in A+ to Danbury public schools for noting a slight difference in how the reimbursement rates are getting applied for this school year. The higher reimbursement rate is generally reserved for our self-op districts and rural districts. However,

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

everyone is claiming at the higher administrative reimbursement rate this year on USDA thankfully only made us

00:05:44.560 --> 00:05:49.350

Cooke, Caroline

use one in an administrative reimbursement rate so you see those.

00:05:50.640 --> 00:06:01.950

Cooke, Caroline

Reimbursement rates listed in the School Lunch Tray and those will apply starting with January reimbursements. And that's more than enough on reimbursement rate changes so I'm going to pass to Susan Alston.

00:06:15.080 --> 00:06:16.910

Dandeneau, Therese

Susan you're on mute.

00:06:17.370 --> 00:06:25.580

Alston, Susan

Thank you. Thank you I know the whole we changed, and the screen changed and I kind of got all flustered so anyway, Happy New year.

00:06:17.390 --> 00:06:18.220

Yearwood, Shannon

You're on mute.

00:06:25.630 --> 00:06:31.630

Alston, Susan

Uhm glad to have everybody here today, so I'm just gonna do a reminder about the UM.

00:06:32.500 --> 00:06:44.530

Alston, Susan

The reporting supply chain issues survey that we have up, the link has been active since September, and we keep reminding you so that people can have the opportunity at any point to go in and

00:06:46.520 --> 00:07:15.830

Alston, Susan

give us some information about what's going on so there's 5 specific questions. When you go into you can answer all of them or you can answer the ones that pertain to you, and they have to do with staffing and product issues delivery schedules and how they're impacting your program and then the last question. That's there is kind of open ended so you could kind of tell us anything since we have this started in September. We've had 72 responses, so people are using it every time there's a new response standard. I gotta get I get a

00:07:16.690 --> 00:07:46.740

Alston, Susan

A notification that I knew responses in there, and then I pulled the report and then I passed that along at least weekly to all of the staff that you see on this call, including Shannon and John so that

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

they have it and then if we get questions from USDA. We can kind of see what's going on out there. We know there's a lot, that I have to do you know the lot that you guys are dealing with for those staffing shortages so if you haven't already and you'd like to the link is active and will keep reminding. Maybe not every School Lunch Tray, but maybe

00:07:46.790 --> 00:07:53.240

Alston, Susan

every other one so that you're you have the opportunity to let us know. I'm more directly what might be happening.

00:07:54.090 --> 00:07:55.690

Alston, Susan

I am glad that Terry.

00:07:57.540 --> 00:08:01.420

Dandeneau, Therese

Thank you. Susan hi everyone, I hope you're all doing well.

00:08:02.140 --> 00:08:32.710

Dandeneau, Therese

I'm just going to talk very briefly about the school nutrition foundation and there was a piece done in the School Lunch Tray about this and basically it's a branch of the School Nutrition Association and for those of you that don't know what the School Nutrition Association is it's an organization for school nutrition professionals and you can become a member, and all you have to do is Google, it and you'll be able to find information on it, and the School Nutrition Association is there. It's basically its own independent board where it's made up of food service.

00:08:32.760 --> 00:09:00.870

Dandeneau, Therese

Directors as well as some industry partners and their mission is to advance the school nutrition programs by providing resources to the professionals and they're committed to identifying and supporting school nutrition research trends and innovations and also sharing best practices with the school nutrition community on. They also provide scholarships, which you're going to want to check out as well to members and so that way you can enhance.

00:09:01.570 --> 00:09:04.530

Dandeneau, Therese

Your professional development and continuing education.

00:09:05.480 --> 00:09:34.280

Dandeneau, Therese

One of the things that we had in the School Lunch Tray pertaining to this is that they currently are offering 6 equipment grants and so, if you're interested in upgrading any of your equipment. You certainly do want to check it out and we gave the link in the School Lunch Tray and the application deadline is March 31st so don't delay. I know you get busy. But if you do need to check it out for equipment. It's a great resource. Not only for that. But for other things as well. So now I'm going to turn it over to Monica.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:09:37.300 --> 00:10:07.900

Pacheco, Monica

Thank you so much Teri and Happy New Year everyone. It's great to be back out in front of you all and bringing this information and I have some USDA foods updates for you. The first goes back a couple weeks ago. We did post. The new foods available list. This is the comprehensive list. That USDA provides every year that shows everything that is available to order from USDA foods now that Connecticut is you know being a small state, we do pair that down quite a bit, but we always want to give the opportunity for.

00:10:07.950 --> 00:10:23.230

Pacheco, Monica

Some folks to weigh in and make note if there is something new or different that they would like to try. It would be based on whether we have enough volume and interests. But we always want to get your feedback on that, so this is a reminder what's actually out again 2 weeks ago and we do have a due date of tomorrow.

00:10:23.300 --> 00:10:53.250

Pacheco, Monica

Uhm to get any feedback on it, we have received some Thank you. The next piece. We have is just a reminder the UM. I'm sure everyone tired of hearing about the darn cheese from USDA. But this year and last year really kind of heightened. The I guess the issue or the focus on the fact that these and refrigerated cheeses have a shorter shelf life. So, this is a reminder. We just got some fresh orders in in the last month and we do have the use by dates available there.

00:10:53.550 --> 00:11:04.080

Pacheco, Monica

Or you don't double check, please try your best to get these products back into your schools as quickly as possible so that they can be used or frozen by those used by dates so that were.

00:11:05.230 --> 00:11:27.480

Pacheco, Monica

That running into any problems with that I will say USDA does know that this seems to be a problem, and this is not just Connecticut. We were on a national call yesterday and several other states also noted that the turnaround time on these are challenging so we're hoping that maybe there are some different ways of managing this in the future. But in the meantime, please. Be aware of the refrigerated cheeses.

00:11:28.840 --> 00:11:58.580

Pacheco, Monica

And then finally this is actually out of one of the other sections. But we have some great news regarding the USDA food show and conference. We've had a date for next Thursday. A week from today. The 27th for some time now. But as you guys all do so very, very well. We've made some changes and we do. The Quick Pivot and we've gone virtual. We appreciate how hard you guys are working. We appreciate how challenging it is to get out of your district, even for a day or a half day so we

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:11:59.260 --> 00:12:08.710

Pacheco, Monica

decided that let's try virtual that we could make it as accessible as possible for you, both so more information is coming, but right here is.

00:12:09.870 --> 00:12:39.840

Pacheco, Monica

The basics on Wednesday afternoon. We're doing the virtual food show, and this is going to be different than you just sitting and listening to the different processors or brokers presenting we are actually going to set them all up in their own rooms. So, they'll all have what we call their virtual booth for you to go visit and reach out to them and have the discussion. You might want to have or at least set up a time where you can do so. Separately, if at that moment. It's not a good time so we're really excited. We have over 20 vendors signed up already to try to have that offering for you, the next day.

00:12:39.890 --> 00:13:09.320

Pacheco, Monica

Thursday morning is going to be kind of our conference content and we're really excited because we have SNACT has coordinated another industry panel. I know they have such valuable information and guidance and insight into what's going on with the supply chain, so they're available and presenting we also have guest speakers from USDA National we have some branch chiefs, who are taking time out of their busy schedule to give you some overviews on some of the areas of entitlement and trends for next year and

00:13:10.190 --> 00:13:40.470

Pacheco, Monica

things like that, so we're really excited that they're able to join us and then Shannon and myself and Allison of course will then try to give you the best updates of Connecticut that we can and also give you an insight into the ordering period. That's coming up very shortly we just had a big national meeting again yesterday, so we have some good updates to move things along for next year. So, we really hope you can attend or doing this to try to make it as accessible as we can for for all you directors and food service folks so.

00:13:41.090 --> 00:13:53.690

Pacheco, Monica

Please take advantage of it, the registration is in the flyer that went out along with our School Lunch Tray yesterday. We look forward to seeing you next week and I think I'm all set and I believe I'm handing it back to Shannon.

00:13:55.930 --> 00:14:21.440

Yearwood, Shannon

Thanks so much Monica so true true to form we are having some technical difficulties as you can probably tell so we, we just like to keep you on your toes and make sure you're paying attention. So, you know with what to put on the School Lunch Tray bloopers, So Speaking of School Lunch Tray and Table Talk it is my pleasure to point out to you the Resource Roundup for this.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:14:21.650 --> 00:14:51.940

Yearwood, Shannon

Uh for this for this School Lunch Tray is me is to remind you that we are making all of the School Lunch Trays available to you. On our School Lunch Tray and Table Talk web page, so we will have the recording for this and the transcript available to you as well. In in hopefully, the near future should technology cooperate with us. After our first launch of 2022, so please check out that page.

00:14:51.990 --> 00:15:21.800

Yearwood, Shannon

It's we have put it, we've archived it in a way that you should be able to just quickly skim those indexes to when you're trying to remember where did I see this in which School Lunch Tray was that in that will help you be able to quickly find it and then access that School Lunch Tray instead of trying to weed through your emails so we know your email inboxes are probably as healthy as ours, so with that, we wanted to make sure that we have ample time to discuss a couple of more things and definitely dive into the instructions for opting into the waivers

00:15:22.000 --> 00:15:28.110

Yearwood, Shannon

using the online system so you know, I'm gonna ask you if you can come back and I will pull up the January 5th

00:15:29.040 --> 00:15:30.620

Yearwood, Shannon

Ah School Lunch Tray

00:15:34.820 --> 00:15:54.910

Brown, Fionnuala

OK, I'm back and can you hear me I think everyone could hear me? Yes, I can't see anyone else and that's yes all right, so UM happy new year. Everyone could afternoon. My name is Fionnuala Brown and I'm going to be going over the USDA waivers in the Child Nutrition Program online system.

00:15:55.490 --> 00:16:17.610

Brown, Fionnuala

Uh before we jump into that we're actually gonna go back to the January 5th, 2022, School Lunch Tray. There were 2 items. In that School Lunch Tray that I think are very important to go over before we start discussing the USDA waivers in the online system.

00:16:18.190 --> 00:16:29.220

Brown, Fionnuala

So the first item is the new documentation for a meal service in school nutrition programs during unanticipated school closures for school year 2122.

00:16:30.530 --> 00:16:50.810

Brown, Fionnuala

So Uhm I'm not sure if everyone has had an opportunity to look at this. But if you click into that form which we don't need to do right now, Shannon but that form is the documentation that you're

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

going to need to keep on file for audit purposes. If you decide to serve meals under unanticipated school closure.

00:16:51.360 --> 00:17:21.450

Brown, Fionnuala

Uhm it's important OK and then we clicked on to that. It's important that we kind of go over that and USDA defines unanticipated school closure and it's listed right there at the top of that form as closures that prevent children from receiving educational instruction and the nutritious meals. They would normally receive so this includes when the entire school district or school or program, have to close for the entire school day do to issues

00:17:21.770 --> 00:17:34.950

Brown, Fionnuala

related from the COVID-19 pandemic This also may include additional issues like snow days so it's waiver number 105 Which allows

00:17:35.920 --> 00:18:05.870

Brown, Fionnuala

schools participating in SSO may provide meals at school sites through the Seamless Summer Option and get reimbursed OK so we wanted to point this out because this is going to have an impact of when you are in the online system and electing to participate in some waivers for this year, so this is allowable and if you want more information. You click on the document here again you're not you don't need to submit this document. You need to keep it on file for each time

00:18:05.980 --> 00:18:32.440

Brown, Fionnuala

that you serve meals under unanticipated school closure, and you put in for reimbursement. There are a number of things you'll have to fill out in a form and it's very straightforward. If you have any specific questions. You can contact your accounting consulting so that's unanticipated school closure and that is allowable under the Seamless Summer Option and again that is specific to children, not receiving educational instruction.

00:18:33.150 --> 00:18:48.290

Brown, Fionnuala

The second item that went out in the School Lunch Tray January 5th that is important to go over before we dive into the sea waivers would be these uhm these reminders for planning for instructional days.

00:18:49.310 --> 00:18:51.400

Brown, Fionnuala

So these.

00:18:52.450 --> 00:18:56.580

Brown, Fionnuala

Yeah, so I can say here these items here are on.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:18:57.580 --> 00:19:27.990

Brown, Fionnuala

Requirements that do not apply to meal service during unanticipated school closures. These are normal operations, so these reminders are for the National School Lunch Program School Breakfast Program and the Seamless Summer Option regarding how to plan for instructional and non-instructional days as a reminder for this school year, so it's important that all SFAs are familiar with these topics in order to ensure program integrity.

00:19:28.250 --> 00:19:53.940

Brown, Fionnuala

So the first bullet there is regarding the National School Lunch Act requirement for public, private and RCCIs to serve lunches to each child uhm each school day so this covers SSO as well for operation of this school year, so half days and early dismissals are considered school days. We sent out guidance in an operational memorandum in the fall.

00:19:54.000 --> 00:20:24.880

Brown, Fionnuala

uhm SP or 03-22, which is there and you can click into that at a later time or or after this presentation or there we go clicked right into that and that gives you the specifics about this, this reminder, but this was clarification that we provided regarding the requirement to serve children on those half days and early dismissals, so again there's further information.

00:20:24.950 --> 00:20:33.020

Brown, Fionnuala

There this is something that is not new this one out in the fall, but this will have a bearing on your

00:20:33.080 --> 00:21:05.180

Brown, Fionnuala

election election to participate in the USDA waivers so we wanted to kind of go over that also under SSO for school year 2021. It's important to note that meals are only able to be provided on instructional days through normal operation again. We are not talking about an anticipated school closure. This is instructional, days so meals are not permitted on weekends, Holidays school breaks on professional development days or any other non- instructional days and there's additional information there.

00:21:05.820 --> 00:21:14.020

Brown, Fionnuala

Also important to point out that under SSO for this school year, you may serve meals to any child 18 and younger and an open site.

00:21:15.990 --> 00:21:31.360

Brown, Fionnuala

Also districts enrolled students that are in quarantine and remote learning or learning remotely can be served at any open or closed site at the school district meals are not required to be picked up at the school at which they are enrolled.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:21:32.010 --> 00:21:39.540

Brown, Fionnuala

So again these are important reminders about operations for this school year when we're talking about feeding children.

00:21:42.380 --> 00:21:43.450

Brown, Fionnuala

All right.

00:21:45.510 --> 00:21:46.760

Brown, Fionnuala

So.

00:21:47.700 --> 00:21:51.540

Brown, Fionnuala

So that is that Shannon if you want to.

00:21:54.910 --> 00:21:57.720

Yearwood, Shannon

You should be able to share your screen know Fionnuala.

00:21:57.830 --> 00:21:59.880

Brown, Fionnuala

OK, OK terrific.

00:22:09.690 --> 00:22:11.210

Brown, Fionnuala

OK can you see my screen?

00:22:12.160 --> 00:22:16.750

Yearwood, Shannon

Yes, do you want to make it just a little bit bigger, though please think it might be a little hard to see?

00:22:17.950 --> 00:22:18.600

Brown, Fionnuala

Sure.

00:22:20.900 --> 00:22:44.090

Brown, Fionnuala

Yeah, I'm not gonna spend a lot OK great. I'm not gonna spend a lot of time on this. This is the manual. We I would encourage you to open this stuff we thought it would be beneficial to jump right into the online system and kind of show you that point of view when we're talking about completing this uhm.

00:22:22.000 --> 00:22:22.710

Yearwood, Shannon

Looks great.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:22:46.000 --> 00:23:11.360

Brown, Fionnuala

Before I go into detail or jump over to the online system in this manual. It's separated into 3 sections. You have accessing the waivers, so you will need somebody who has a user ID and password for the child nutrition program online system to be able to navigate to the USDA waivers section and again, I will show you how to do that in just a moment.

00:23:11.940 --> 00:23:37.420

Brown, Fionnuala

Uhm the second section goes through the 7 waivers so I will speak about each of these waivers separately when I am in the online system. But the instructions are there that are going to mirror? What you see in the online system and Lastly. We have the resources so a link to all of those USDA waivers available additional guidance. If you need to look at that.

00:23:39.440 --> 00:23:40.260

Brown, Fionnuala

So.

00:23:41.340 --> 00:23:42.440

Brown, Fionnuala

Let's see here.

00:23:43.080 --> 00:24:13.500

Brown, Fionnuala

So before I click over and get into the online system. I just wanted to point out a few items, so many of the sponsors have already completed, there on USDA waivers in the online system and submitted that took a look this morning. I think there's about 70 sponsors who have completed that I wanted to let you know that you will have an opportunity to make modifications, so after this presentation. If you find that you need to go in and make any changes you can do that and then just?

00:24:13.830 --> 00:24:14.690

Brown, Fionnuala

Resubmit it.

00:24:15.910 --> 00:24:21.990

Brown, Fionnuala

Different for this school year is that you are electing to participate in their waiver.

00:24:23.550 --> 00:24:53.950

Brown, Fionnuala

For even if you're not intending to even if you don't use it, so you're electing to participate in the waiver for the entire school year, but there may be a circumstance where you don't use the wave right now. This is new from last year last year, you were electing to participate in waivers in that you were using but again looking at the guidance now potentially with unanticipated school closure and even the guidance with just normal operations you may elect to participate.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:24:54.010 --> 00:25:05.120

Brown, Fionnuala

In some of these waivers, but and get approval and you may not actually implement them for this school year and that is OK that is allowable by USDA.

00:25:05.180 --> 00:25:22.340

Brown, Fionnuala

Yeah, UM and so that being said, you are electing to participate in the waiver for the entire school year. We're sending these instructions out now and collecting this data, January but this does cover September through June 30th, 2022.

00:25:23.660 --> 00:25:27.400

Brown, Fionnuala

And then you'll see here on page 7.

00:25:28.060 --> 00:25:41.570

Brown, Fionnuala

I'm gonna just jump a little bit and that we Uhm outlined the requirements in the documentation. You need to keep on file. If you implement those waivers so you will submit your

00:25:43.340 --> 00:26:05.450

Brown, Fionnuala

Election to participate in these waivers and then you will receive approval. But if you do actually implement the waiver. You are going to need to identify the start and end date and keep supporting documentation on file. Production records point of service meal counts menus at a check worksheet and also how this waiver resulted in improved services to the program participants.

00:26:06.480 --> 00:26:10.100

Brown, Fionnuala

So that is also a little different from last year.

00:26:11.240 --> 00:26:19.480

Brown, Fionnuala

So I wanted to point out those items and now I'm going to jump over into the online system and we're going to navigate through.

00:26:20.840 --> 00:26:50.310

Brown, Fionnuala

I will say I'm going to do my best to present this information to everybody. We know that there are many different circumstances in scenarios out there, so I would highly encourage you if you have a specific question about your operations to reach out to your county consultant so myself or Teri Dandeneau, Susan Alston are here available to answer any questions to help you through this also Caroline Cooke and Terese Maineri are also available.

00:26:51.050 --> 00:26:57.020

Brown, Fionnuala

If you've been working with them. Certainly, they are up to speed with all of this, this information.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:26:59.870 --> 00:27:00.460

Brown, Fionnuala
ok

00:27:03.300 --> 00:27:03.950

Brown, Fionnuala
So.

00:27:10.040 --> 00:27:23.290

Brown, Fionnuala
Alright so you should see the online system here and I'm gonna log in you're gonna it's gonna be a little different for you, but I'm just going to pull up in Watertown.

00:27:25.200 --> 00:27:55.370

Brown, Fionnuala
And so you go up into the upper left- hand corner here and click applications and then you will see as you Scroll down here. You'll see USDA waivers and you'll click that and what we have opened for this school is just this school year. Unfortunately, we don't have last school year open up where on and unable to just have that available in view mode, so we have to keep that on closed so.

00:27:55.670 --> 00:28:01.110

Brown, Fionnuala
Then click details you would click details and we'll see a listing of all of the schools here.

00:28:02.440 --> 00:28:03.250

Brown, Fionnuala
Uhm.

00:28:04.840 --> 00:28:26.070

Brown, Fionnuala
Yeah, so then you would just go into your first school click. Add and you'll see this 7 waivers available to identify if you are participating or not participating and once again. I'm going to say this again, you can elect to participate in the waiver get approval.

00:28:26.690 --> 00:28:31.160

Brown, Fionnuala
And you may not utilize the waiver all school year and that is OK.

00:28:32.020 --> 00:28:32.950

Brown, Fionnuala
If you do.

00:28:34.140 --> 00:28:35.480

Brown, Fionnuala
Implement the waiver.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:28:36.290 --> 00:28:38.400

Brown, Fionnuala

For 2 weeks for 4 weeks.

00:28:39.480 --> 00:29:00.980

Brown, Fionnuala

For the entire school year, you just need to have that documentation on file. That's mentioned on page 7 of the manual to be able to support to be able to support the implementation at this point, USCA has not asked for that information. But they will. They may ask for it in the future, so again. It is your requirement to keep that

00:29:03.080 --> 00:29:10.550

Brown, Fionnuala

And now I'm just going to go into on each of the waivers and just going to point out a few things on the right-hand side here we have the

00:29:11.280 --> 00:29:41.090

Brown, Fionnuala

Uhm. Question mark, which is the tooltip and so, if you click that for each of the waivers. It gives you additional information, which is also represented right in the manual, so for the first way over here waiver number one. We have approximately 175 sponsors all, but one sponsors participating in the Seamless Summer Option this year, so everyone is going to be selecting participating in waiver for the number one waiver here.

00:29:41.560 --> 00:29:45.760

Brown, Fionnuala

Allowing Seamless Summer Option, so that's that.

00:29:48.360 --> 00:29:55.750

Brown, Fionnuala

The next 3 waivers here, the non-congregate meal service parent/guardian pickup and mealtime.

00:29:57.390 --> 00:30:00.380

Brown, Fionnuala

Mealtime meal service time requirement.

00:30:01.280 --> 00:30:15.840

Brown, Fionnuala

Are sometimes used together? We've called it like the trifecta. Which allow for parents to come pick up meals for multiple days to be consumed off site so those 3 waivers uhm.

00:30:15.890 --> 00:30:16.190

Brown, Fionnuala

We

00:30:17.200 --> 00:30:28.410

Brown, Fionnuala

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

usually work together but they don't have to and we're going to go into each of them specifically so again the non-congregate meal service is what you would need to.

00:30:29.110 --> 00:30:40.020

Brown, Fionnuala

Uh elect to participate and receive approval if you are right now, we have some districts who might be distributing meals when children are getting on the bus.

00:30:40.650 --> 00:30:52.580

Brown, Fionnuala

Uh for the next day, so they might be giving them breakfast as they leave for the following day. You would need to have this waiver in place. You would also need to have the mealtime

00:30:54.070 --> 00:31:05.730

Brown, Fionnuala

waiver as well because that is the waiver that allows you to feed outside of the normal parameters of the mealtimes right so right now.

00:31:06.870 --> 00:31:24.390

Brown, Fionnuala

Lunch it needs is required to be served between the hours of 10 and 2 and breakfast at the start of the day so if you are giving students breakfast at the evening when they go home or the afternoon for the following day. You would need to have this waiver in place so non-congregate in the mealtime.

00:31:25.770 --> 00:31:32.280

Brown, Fionnuala

And the parent/guardian pickup would be that waiver that allows the parents to pick up the meals for the children.

00:31:33.080 --> 00:31:49.950

Brown, Fionnuala

So generally those 3 works together at open sites if you're going to be doing multiple day distribution and parents are driving up home delivery again all 3 of these these waivers work together.

00:31:52.720 --> 00:31:58.290

Brown, Fionnuala

So that is way over 2, 3 and 4 and then we have the meal pattern flexibility waiver.

00:31:59.760 --> 00:32:07.970

Brown, Fionnuala

So this is the only waiver that you are required to complete a separate application and upload that into the online system.

00:32:09.800 --> 00:32:18.740

Brown, Fionnuala

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

I'm gonna attempt to open that in a moment I'm going to go through these other other waivers first so that's the meal pattern flexibility waiver.

00:32:20.350 --> 00:32:52.570

Brown, Fionnuala

Number 5 number 6 is the offer versus serve for the high school as you know offer versus serve is an option for the lower grades K through 8. But for high school, it is required for you to implement offer versus serve so if you are choosing not to implement offer versus serve because of health and safety or because of operations that you have to package up all 5 components and distribute meals as

00:32:52.620 --> 00:32:56.930

Brown, Fionnuala

together, as a full meal you would need to implement this

00:32:58.470 --> 00:32:59.370

Brown, Fionnuala

and

00:33:02.120 --> 00:33:06.380

Brown, Fionnuala

So for this school, it's not applicable because this is an elementary school.

00:33:07.260 --> 00:33:37.390

Brown, Fionnuala

And then number 7 is the area eligibility in the after-school programs. So, we have a number of sponsors participating in the After School Snack Program and you were given specific items that you would need to elect to participate in this waiver in order to receive continued approval. Those approvals happened in the fall. Monica Pacheco actually coordinated that for the most part and in that email approval. We identified that you need to.

00:33:38.030 --> 00:33:39.980

Brown, Fionnuala

elect to participate in this waiver.

00:33:41.060 --> 00:33:43.390

Brown, Fionnuala

So this may not be applicable for everyone.

00:33:46.120 --> 00:34:02.540

Brown, Fionnuala

And then lastly here we have the add attachment so this on the instructions are right there in the online system. You just complete that meal pattern flexibility waiver application and save it on your desktop and then you would upload it here in the in the online system.

00:34:04.990 --> 00:34:06.960

Brown, Fionnuala

OK, so.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:34:08.500 --> 00:34:20.540

Brown, Fionnuala

Looks like I'm doing well on time, so I am going to open up the meal pattern flexibility waiver here. I wanted to point out one or two things.

00:34:42.290 --> 00:34:44.420

Yearwood, Shannon

We just lost your screen share formula.

00:34:45.080 --> 00:34:48.670

Brown, Fionnuala

OK. Sorry I'm fine OK.

00:34:46.250 --> 00:34:46.810

Yearwood, Shannon

It's back.

00:34:49.720 --> 00:34:52.220

Yearwood, Shannon

Yeah, now we see him just the VPN.

00:34:52.870 --> 00:34:53.330

Yearwood, Shannon

Window.

00:35:09.670 --> 00:35:11.520

Fiore, Susan

Fionnuala do you want me to share it on my screen?

00:35:12.240 --> 00:35:14.490

Brown, Fionnuala

If you could that would be fantastic.

00:35:15.580 --> 00:35:16.690

Brown, Fionnuala

I'm trying here.

00:35:17.270 --> 00:35:18.470

Fiore, Susan

Let's try this again.

00:35:22.190 --> 00:35:24.500

Brown, Fionnuala

OK, OK great.

00:35:30.290 --> 00:35:33.810

Brown, Fionnuala

OK, so let's yeah.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:35:35.530 --> 00:35:49.880

Brown, Fionnuala

So this is the new application for the meal pattern flexibility, uhm and this is for this school year 21-22. There are it looks a little different than last year, there are 2 parts.

00:35:50.280 --> 00:35:51.160

Brown, Fionnuala

Uhm.

00:35:52.190 --> 00:35:53.250

Brown, Fionnuala

Let's see.

00:35:55.200 --> 00:35:58.980

Brown, Fionnuala

Can you Scroll down on Susan or go to the second page?

00:36:02.820 --> 00:36:32.050

Brown, Fionnuala

Thank you so there are part one has 7 options. So, you would review these potential flexibilities that you might need to implement this school year or that you may already be implementing and then you just check it off identify which schools or the entire district and then this does require a signature and again this is uploaded into the online system USDA came out.

00:36:32.110 --> 00:36:59.500

Brown, Fionnuala

Of these 7 items to make it nice and easy for schools that may need to have some flexibility with the meal pattern. Part 2 is anything outside of these 7 items that you are looking for approval to deviate from the meal pattern. You can identify that and then you would submit that for

00:37:00.260 --> 00:37:24.050

Brown, Fionnuala

approval Part 2 is is pretty much something that you are already implementing at where part one could could potentially be. You're looking that there is a possibility that you may need to elect the flexibility for part one, so which is why again. It's just like you're checking off which items and.

00:37:25.670 --> 00:37:34.050

Brown, Fionnuala

The onus would be on you to keep the documentation, so if you go back up to the first page. Susan I kind of wanted to point out similar to these waivers.

00:37:35.090 --> 00:37:38.330

Brown, Fionnuala

The you are required to keep.

00:37:39.200 --> 00:37:50.250

Brown, Fionnuala

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

Only seeing like the second paragraph, so if you go down here. You are required to keep on file on right at the bottom of the page required information for future reporting.

00:37:51.390 --> 00:38:03.340

Brown, Fionnuala

The start and end date of using this flexibility supporting documentation for all meal pattern waves or that illustrates potentially supply chain if that was what was impacting your need for

00:38:03.400 --> 00:38:27.350

Brown, Fionnuala

Uhm electing to participate in one of those options, the sites that utilized it in how you resulted in improving. In services to program participants so again. These are it's very similar documentation. You have to keep on file. If you are implementing this waiver so this is a separate approval that needs to be uploaded into the online system.

00:38:28.280 --> 00:38:30.080

Brown, Fionnuala

So I'm going to.

00:38:35.550 --> 00:38:39.280

Brown, Fionnuala

Go back now to the instructions if that's OK.

00:38:40.270 --> 00:38:41.350

Brown, Fionnuala

Susan Fiore.

00:38:44.190 --> 00:38:44.890

Fiore, Susan

Yep, you're good.

00:38:44.230 --> 00:39:11.260

Brown, Fionnuala

OK good so after you have so you will have to identify participating or not participating for each of the waivers. They went through that and then it would all be in submitted status for you to move on and then wait for approval and again. I know that many of you have already done that so you can go back in and make modifications if if need be.

00:39:12.770 --> 00:39:15.660

Brown, Fionnuala

On that feature the instructions on the uhm.

00:39:17.700 --> 00:39:22.490

Brown, Fionnuala

Uploading or I'm just going to go to the end here, I wanted to point out one other item.

00:39:24.030 --> 00:39:41.130

Brown, Fionnuala

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

So I know I mentioned under unanticipated school closure or what was sent out January 5th was this waiver 105. You're currently not going to see that in the online system. We will be updated in the system after January 31st and.

00:39:41.180 --> 00:39:41.660

Brown, Fionnuala
Uhm.

00:39:42.900 --> 00:40:10.200

Brown, Fionnuala
That is something that you will receive additional instructions on completing that if you're going to be utilizing. The unanticipated school closure OK. But outside of that you still can elect to participate in one of the you know 2, 3 and 4 of the waivers non-congregate meal pattern or mealtime flexibility and parent/guardian pick up and again may not potentially utilize it.

00:40:13.910 --> 00:40:16.600

Brown, Fionnuala
OK, I think that's all I have.

00:40:16.650 --> 00:40:28.070

Brown, Fionnuala
uhm my colleagues were gonna jump on if I failed to include all of the important information or if we had any questions.

00:40:31.210 --> 00:40:31.880

Brown, Fionnuala
uhm

00:40:31.920 --> 00:41:01.790

Yearwood, Shannon
Thank you so much Fionnuala that was great, uhm so I do want to mention that it would uh we are not enabling the the microphone feature or the camera feature right now because we really are having some technology challenges today. So, you'll need to enter your questions into the chat box, and we did have one question that was submitted ahead of time. So, just wanted to let you know, we'll get to that shortly. But if you have questions whether they were going to stick with the old rules for School Lunch Tray table talk.

00:41:02.210 --> 00:41:23.420

Yearwood, Shannon
They can pertain to the information that is in the School Lunch Tray or you may have questions that do not pertain to the information contained in the School Lunch Tray ask away. If we don't know what your questions are we I don't know what guidance or resources to develop for you and what would be the most helpful as certainly if we don't have time to get to all of your questions today. We will absolutely follow up with you.

00:41:24.420 --> 00:41:40.510

Yearwood, Shannon

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

And if your questions are very individualized or specific to your situation. We may not address them today. But we will provide technical assistance and reach out to you afterwards so with that short commercial break out with handed back off to the team in case there's anything else that we wanted to add.

00:41:46.020 --> 00:41:49.380

Maineri, Terese

So we received one question prior to the webinar do.

00:41:49.970 --> 00:41:59.150

Maineri, Terese

And that is a Fionnuala went over this during her talk about maybe just as a reminder. I'll mention it on the question was which.

00:41:59.810 --> 00:42:11.290

Maineri, Terese

Should we use waiver number 2 for non-congregate meals to serve grab and go meals for students that pick-up meals before leaving school early dismissal days.

00:42:15.960 --> 00:42:18.190

Brown, Fionnuala

Hi sorry, Terese were you gonna take that or

00:42:19.350 --> 00:42:44.530

Brown, Fionnuala

yes, so the answer is yes. Yeah, non-congregate meals would be needed in order to support that operation and then also on the mealtime flexibility waiver because you are serving breakfast in the afternoon to be consumed. The next day. You would need that mealtime flexibility waiver, which I believe is number 4 in order to do that 2 and 4.

00:42:45.550 --> 00:42:53.780

Brown, Fionnuala

And again I think one of the big differences this year is you can elect to to implement in or not answering this specific question. But.

00:42:54.590 --> 00:43:16.090

Brown, Fionnuala

2, 3 and 4 if you think that there's any potential that you would be doing grab and go or that you would potentially be serving under anticipated school closure, and you could receive approval for that. But then you keep the documentation of the start and end dates and your specific operations pertaining to whichever operation it is on file.

00:43:17.100 --> 00:43:27.850

Brown, Fionnuala

So I know that's a very different from how we have done business in the past. But this is a flexibility. That's allowed and so we are as a state implementing it.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:43:29.940 --> 00:44:01.760

Yearwood, Shannon

So now jump jump in there, too, Fionnuala that one of the reasons that we are that we are asking you to keep all of this on file this because we need to ensure that there's program integrity. We need to sharpen sure that there's compliance with these waiver flexibilities and we are trying to we, we spent countless hours trying to figure out how to create the least administrative burden possible for you so instead of having to submit things to us. If we have the flexibility. If we have some of that discretion to be able to say.

00:44:02.000 --> 00:44:33.510

Yearwood, Shannon

You know what we ask them to maintain it on file. We require that's maintained on file. Then you can really do it in a system in a way that works for you. The documentation document for the unanticipated school closures. We did not check the weather forecast and did that anticipate all of the unanticipated school closures that happened today. But it just happened to be very timely when the snow hit that today is the day that we're talking about it, so that is something that that we do have the ability to say you know if you keep the documentation on file.

00:44:33.750 --> 00:45:04.300

Yearwood, Shannon

We will request it needs to be available for administrative reviews for audit purposes and you just really it's we're trying to make it as as straightforward as possible for you if you do serve during unanticipated school closures. You do need to give your consultant a heads up and he doesn't have to be the day that you're trying to figure out how to plow through the snow and feed the kids at the same time, while the schools are closed, but you do need to let us know so that we can provide any sort of technical assistance. If you think that's something you want to do.

00:45:04.470 --> 00:45:12.720

Yearwood, Shannon

Just reach out to us and we can certainly help you ahead of time, so that you can be prepared should that be an opportunity that you want to take advantage of.

00:45:14.180 --> 00:45:15.540

Yearwood, Shannon

So looks like we have another question.

00:45:18.700 --> 00:45:32.880

Maineri, Terese

OK, sorry that I'm so number 6 would be participation for high school students to take home Meals on half days because they would have all the components in that offer.

00:45:34.010 --> 00:45:41.150

Maineri, Terese

Offer versus serve is it I think they're asking if number 6. Yeah, if number 6 would be used for that I.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:45:41.880 --> 00:45:42.750

Maineri, Terese

Assume.

00:45:44.030 --> 00:46:12.680

Brown, Fionnuala

The answer 's yes, yep absolutely Diane that you would need to implement that on that waiver. But in addition to that. That way where you would need to implement uhm the non-congregate and also the the mealtime flexibility, possibly depending on when you're distributing those meals so uhm yes, that would be it. If you're not allowing offer versus serve for those high school students and you're giving all of the 5 components. You would need to check that off.

00:46:16.950 --> 00:46:22.720

Maineri, Terese

So the next question is how do waivers 2, 3 and 4?

00:46:23.900 --> 00:46:29.580

Maineri, Terese

Related to the status of establishing closed and open sites.

00:46:36.450 --> 00:46:40.800

Brown, Fionnuala

So I'm not sure if you're just asking me the question. But I'll answer I don't know if ever.

00:46:39.230 --> 00:46:39.530

Yearwood, Shannon

Yeah.

00:46:41.820 --> 00:46:44.160

Yearwood, Shannon

Yeah, anybody anybody could in here.

00:46:42.730 --> 00:46:43.560

Brown, Fionnuala

I just

00:46:44.540 --> 00:47:14.660

Brown, Fionnuala

OK and anybody can I just OK so 2, 3 and 4 related to the status of establishing closed and open sites so for an open site right if you're allowing families and parents and not requiring the students to come to pick up meals for any child 18 and younger and open site, you would need waiver 2, 3 and 4, which is the non-congregate because most open sites. You're not having them congregate in eat there. It's more of a grab and go wow, so for grab and go with parents picking up meals at open sites.

00:46:45.010 --> 00:46:45.330

Yearwood, Shannon

Go ahead.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:47:15.110 --> 00:47:45.120

Brown, Fionnuala

2, 3 and 4, which is the non-congregate the parent/guardian pick up and the mealtime flexibility waiver closed is you're feeding those enrolled students. But you may have circumstances where we mentioned kids are in quarantine remote learning or may not be remote learning, but it's an instructional day they that children who are not at school. You may be making meals available for those students. So, you would need waivers 2, 3 and 4 if a parent was going to come in.

00:47:45.360 --> 00:47:49.920

Brown, Fionnuala

In the morning and pick up a breakfast and lunch for their student who's at home in Quarantine.

00:47:49.970 --> 00:48:08.800

Brown, Fionnuala

Uhm so yes, you would need waivers 2, 3 and 4 to be able to support feeding off site, allowing the parents to pick off and certainly if you're not distributing meals during those required mealtimes. You would need that mealtime flexibility waiver, so I hope that answers your question, Janet.

00:48:09.360 --> 00:48:22.820

Cooke, Caroline

Can I Fionnuala can I jump in with just one more reminder uhm so one of the changes that took place with this school year regarding open versus closed enrolled sites and feeding kids that are not at school.

00:48:23.530 --> 00:48:50.730

Cooke, Caroline

Uhm is that prior to this school year and some specific items that USDA released in order to serve kids out of school that they were not enrolled that even if it was in the same district. It had to be an open site. So, we were encouraging you to have at least one open site in the district where families that had kids in multiple different school levels grade levels could get all of the meals for all of the kids in one location without driving around town.

00:48:51.340 --> 00:48:57.630

Cooke, Caroline

And this year, they did provide for this school year, they did provide specific items that allowed.

00:48:59.600 --> 00:49:10.040

Cooke, Caroline

Any child enrolled in the district to pick up at any of the district's schools as long as they're enrolled students, so they don't have to go to the school of their enrollment.

00:49:10.750 --> 00:49:12.770

Cooke, Caroline

Even if the schools are closed enrolled.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:49:17.180 --> 00:49:20.620

Yearwood, Shannon

I think that's a great great clarification.

00:49:23.300 --> 00:49:41.740

Brown, Fionnuala

That's a great point, Caroline So what you're saying is that if they're trying to facilitate feeding students who are not in school during an instructional day, they could just have one site open where they're implementing all of these waivers and then feed everyone from the district right. I think that's what you're saying yes.

00:49:41.650 --> 00:50:12.420

Cooke, Caroline

Correct and what they could that's not what I was saying that they could do that. But what I was saying, is if their sites are closed enrolled not open. They don't have to send the parents to the school that each student is enrolled at to get their meals for that individual child. They can give all of the meals for the kids in one location. Even if they're close enrolled as long as they're and enrolled in the district. It would not apply to anyone that any children that are not enrolled in the district. But as long as they're enrolled in the district, they can pick up at.

00:50:12.470 --> 00:50:14.740

Cooke, Caroline

Any of the district school sites that are operating.

00:50:20.670 --> 00:50:29.930

Brown, Fionnuala

Which again allows for many different operations they could choose to have every school available to if they have students in quarantine from every school you know, or

00:50:31.020 --> 00:51:01.950

Brown, Fionnuala

and we know that there are many challenges this year, so food service directors were trying to think of ways, if they've been given the directive to feed children who are at home that some of them may be setting up systems to have one or 2 schools available for those children who cannot come into school to receive to receive meals so there are many different circumstances in scenarios, and I know that we have come together for one district and kind of brainstorm some ideas, so certainly if you have challenges.

00:51:01.990 --> 00:51:08.670

Brown, Fionnuala

Or any specifics reach out to your county consultant because we're here to to help you in the best way we can.

00:51:09.710 --> 00:51:19.660

Cooke, Caroline

Looks like we have another question from Diane. It says may you keep one site open, but not distribute meals unless there was an unexpected closing.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:51:21.100 --> 00:51:30.290

Cooke, Caroline

Uhm I'm not 100% sure I know what you mean so if someone feels like. They have a really strong grasp on what exactly she's asking feel free to step in but.

00:51:31.690 --> 00:51:40.810

Cooke, Caroline

I think what you're asking is can you have one site that is designated of where you would distribute those meals if there was an unexpected?

00:51:41.400 --> 00:51:43.480

Cooke, Caroline

Unanticipated school closure.

00:51:45.630 --> 00:51:53.840

Cooke, Caroline

You could, but an open site has to serve kids that present themselves to participate. So you wouldn't you would have to keep it.

00:51:54.560 --> 00:52:02.820

Cooke, Caroline

If you wanna designated as open now you it would have to be open. You would have to be prepared to serve kids. You have to advertise that availability to the community.

00:52:03.530 --> 00:52:11.210

Cooke, Caroline

Can you make changes to your operations if an unanticipated school closure occurs you? Can you don't have to?

00:52:12.570 --> 00:52:25.560

Cooke, Caroline

Open a site in anticipation that that might happen if the district closes, and you need to serve under unanticipated school closure make your decisions about where you're going to be operating.

00:52:26.690 --> 00:52:33.990

Cooke, Caroline

Advertise that information to the community certainly make sure that you're working with the district to get the information out to enrolled student families.

00:52:34.630 --> 00:52:52.550

Cooke, Caroline

You're gonna notify your county consultant and you're gonna look for that documentation form that Fionnuala went over to be able to retain all the documentation that you need about what days that you applied on anticipated school closure where those meals were served and all of the other information to the platform will walk you through.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:52:55.570 --> 00:52:58.620

Brown, Fionnuala

Right cause again with the way we're not.

00:52:59.930 --> 00:53:07.690

Brown, Fionnuala

Making any indication of closed and closed or open that was with the site application, but Caroline just pointed out.

00:53:08.370 --> 00:53:28.060

Brown, Fionnuala

And what I think it answers. The question is that that documentation for unanticipated school closure. You have an opportunity to identify if you are operating as a closed site or an open site. It kind of has its own set of instructions to document what your operations were like for that specific unanticipated school closure.

00:53:29.990 --> 00:53:34.150

Brown, Fionnuala

Uhm but Diane if we're not answering you can always reach out directly to.

00:53:39.890 --> 00:53:50.510

Yearwood, Shannon

OK, so uh the risk of not answering questions as you. Get me just talking and creating commercial breaks so that should inspire you to ask your questions.

00:53:51.870 --> 00:53:53.370

Yearwood, Shannon

Have another one that worked.

00:53:54.560 --> 00:53:58.440

Maineri, Terese

So if if family in quarantine and a parent.

00:53:59.170 --> 00:54:03.300

Maineri, Terese

family in Quarantine. I think it cannot parent or guardian.

00:54:03.490 --> 00:54:09.560

Maineri, Terese

Uh if you miss in quarantine and a parent/guardian cannot pick up meals can, we deliver meals.

00:54:12.750 --> 00:54:13.430

Maineri, Terese

Uhm.

00:54:17.390 --> 00:54:48.250

Cooke, Caroline

That's a time bomb no one once I think I'll take it. But please tell me if I'm wrong, uhm yes, but

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

don't forget that there is really specific requirements with home delivery. So there has to be consent from the family in order for this to happen and their first contact has to be with the school food authority. So, you cannot essentially sublease that responsibility to someone else. If this is something that you're considering definitely reach out to your county consultant and we will provide some technical assistance.

00:54:17.530 --> 00:54:17.870

Yearwood, Shannon

Sure.

00:54:19.360 --> 00:54:19.650

Maineri, Terese

Yeah.

00:54:48.790 --> 00:54:55.810

Cooke, Caroline

Uh because home delivery is is pretty specific and you wanna have your documentation very much in order with that, but it is allowable.

00:54:58.550 --> 00:55:05.260

Maineri, Terese

Another question just came in the meal pattern flexibility waiver needs to be completed for all school locations.

00:55:08.290 --> 00:55:11.000

Maineri, Terese

Well, I don't know if you wanna get that.

00:55:08.990 --> 00:55:09.570

Brown, Fionnuala

So.

00:55:10.220 --> 00:55:10.660

Brown, Fionnuala

uhm so

00:55:12.640 --> 00:55:24.020

Maineri, Terese

I don't know if you wanna get that uhm but all all locations each waiver is selected per site. So, if the school is participating in the flexibility. They can add it to that particular school if.

00:55:26.680 --> 00:55:28.490

Maineri, Terese

When did you wanna ask something else sorry?

00:55:27.120 --> 00:55:51.690

Brown, Fionnuala

Yes, yes, Yep, Yep so, the uhm on the application. You would identify if it's district wide or a

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

particular school so again, if it's one of those, 7 items listed in part one. I would certainly say you do it for you know the entire district cause you're required then to keep documentation on.

00:55:51.780 --> 00:55:58.870

Brown, Fionnuala

For which schools implemented the waiver and for what dates in your production records and everything else but uhm.

00:56:00.270 --> 00:56:31.460

Brown, Fionnuala

That's a great question because I think the question might be like do you need to upload it into the online system for each site and so what we have asked in the past is that you would just do that, once uhm and then that would satisfy that so if we see it there for your first school and we open that application and see on the application you've identified for all of your schools that would would certainly satisfy that great question. I didn't cover that uhm so that would prevent you from having to upload it.

00:56:31.850 --> 00:57:04.620

Brown, Fionnuala

10 times 30 times, so you can upload it for your first school and again in the application. You identify if it's for all schools or they specific number of schools and then uhm you should be good to go and again. I just want to point out that the authorized representative has to sign this. It's a big deal. Obviously, to be serving meals that aren't meeting the meal pattern or to potentially receive approval for that. So, we want to make sure that the powers that be are aware of that, uhm so you do have to get one of the authorized signers.

00:57:05.260 --> 00:57:06.350

Brown, Fionnuala

To to sign that.

00:57:08.540 --> 00:57:38.070

Yearwood, Shannon

And I'll jump in here on this one uhm and that is something that that USDA is paying very, very, very, very close attention to as you know it's one of our pillars. That's our one of our performance standards. And so that is something out. You've probably noticed if you've submitted an application to us in the past that we reach out to you and provide technical assistance and and try to figure out if there's a way that we can help problem solve and help you still meet those meal patterns so.

00:57:38.460 --> 00:58:08.130

Yearwood, Shannon

Certainly the first part of that you know pattern waiver as a little bit more streamlines. They're a little bit more flexible on that. But if it's outside of those those specific 7 circumstances. We will definitely work with you uhm we won't approve them for convenience. That's definitely not, and not a not a reason to flex from the meal pattern uhm but if it's if it's something that is supply chain related or if it's a different issue.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022

00:58:08.490 --> 00:58:20.780

Yearwood, Shannon

We can certainly work with you on that, but we we have to. We will be working with you to make sure and so don't assume you'll get approved for those for that second part.

00:58:25.480 --> 00:58:55.090

Yearwood, Shannon

Alright so I'm not seeing any more questions and I did make the threat of coming on as being a commercial segues, though I'm guessing you may not have anymore. We do have the question link that went out in the reminder for the School Lunch Tray table talk. That's not gonna expire after today. We're going to keep that live table talks will be every other week and so that we have also some weeks that we can provide some program specific trainings for you as we are annually required to do.

00:58:55.710 --> 00:59:25.220

Yearwood, Shannon

So certainly if you missed one of these you can go to that table talk web page and our school. I've tried web page. And I just want to give a huge shout out to Susan Fiore, who is just the central nervous system of all of the resources and guidance that we provide to you and has definitely really been the heart and soul of School Lunch Tray and and being able to make this Table Talk platform available, so that we have a structure for being able to provide you with the technical assistance and information that you look for.

00:59:26.080 --> 00:59:47.160

Yearwood, Shannon

So when you wake up at 3:00 AM and you're thinking about these programs and you're going oh. I wish I'd ask this question just put it in that link and we will get to you so thank you so much and we look forward to seeing you not next Thursday but the following Thursday for our next School Lunch Tray Table Talk and a huge thank you to my awesome, awesome team for all you do because they truly are awesome.

00:59:47.870 --> 00:59:49.950

Yearwood, Shannon

Thank you so much have a great rest of your day.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: January 20, 2022



For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's [School Lunch Tray and Table Talk](#) webpage, or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/Training/TableTalk/2022/School_Lunch_Tray_Table_Talk_01_20_2022_Transcript.pdf

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of age, ancestry, color, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status or workplace hazards to reproductive systems, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in any of the aforementioned protected classes.

Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Coordinator (ADA), Connecticut State Department of Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 505, Hartford, CT 06103, 860-807-2071, levy.gillespie@ct.gov.