

Meal Service During School Closures: Parent & Student Q&A

Are schools required to serve meals during the closure?

Many students depend on school meals as a crucial part of daily nutrition. Districts are expected to develop plans and resources to ensure student needs are met during extended closures, but are not required to serve meals during an unanticipated school closure.

Does the Governor's "stay at home" order affect meal service?

Governor Inslee's "stay at home" order, issued March 23, does not prohibit school districts from continuing to provide meals, as this is an essential function.

Who can receive a meal?

Any child aged 0–18, or adults with disabilities who are enrolled in educational programs, can receive meals free of charge.

How do I know if my district is serving meals?

Districts must share information publicly if they are serving meals. Information can often be found on district websites, via email communications, or through other communication formats.

How will my district serve meals?

Districts are using a variety of ways to get meals to students. We encourage schools to maintain social distancing during the COVID-19 closure to prevent the spread of the disease. Due to this, meal service will look different than typical service. Meal service options include, but are not limited to, utilizing school bus routes, grab and go options, and more.

Can breakfast and lunch be given at one time?

Yes. Districts may distribute two meals, such as breakfast and lunch, in one meal service.

Can I pick up meals for my child(ren) if they are sick?

Children must be present in order to receive a free meal. If a parent would like to pick up meals for children not present, they should contact their school district for assistance.

Who should I contact with additional questions?

For all questions about receiving meals during this unexpected closure, please contact your district directly. [District Websites and Contact Information](#) can be found on our website.

