

Navigating a Changing Food Supply Chain During COVID-19 School Closures

COVID-19 has significantly impacted California and the nation's food supply. School districts, day care homes, child care homes, at-risk afterschool care centers, and adult day care homes may be suffering from food shortages. At the same time, school and restaurant closures may result in food surplus for local farmers and food vendors. In order to help bridge the gap between need and supply, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and California Department of Education (CDE) are issuing this resource document to provide methods for finding local foods, purchasing them, and preparing them. Included are links to relevant USDA waivers and state level guidance.

Connecting with Local Food Producers

FARMERS' MARKET PRODUCERS LISTED BY COUNTY

There are more than 800 Certified Farmers' Markets in California, and many of the Certified Producers who sell at these markets have surplus product due to shelter-in-place orders and necessary closures of restaurants. Markets remain open as essential services to the community, and may be able to supply you with needed produce or food products.

Utilize this CDFA [list of Certified Producers](#) organized by county to contact your local producers.

Purchasing Methods

MICROPURCHASING AND EMERGENCY NONCOMPETITIVE SOLICITATIONS

Participants in Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Seamless Summer Option, and the Summer Food Service Program (collectively referred to as Child Nutrition Programs) can purchase foods from local vendors during COVID-19-related school closures and supply chain disruptions through both micropurchasing and emergency noncompetitive solicitations.

To learn more about micropurchasing, go to the CDE [Procurement in the CNPs frequently asked questions web page](#) and scroll down to the micropurchasing section. To learn more about emergency noncompetitive solicitations, [click here](#).

Preparation Methods

NUTRITIOUS RECIPES USING FARMERS' MARKET INGREDIENTS

The California Department of Education (CDE) has an online database with nutritious, kid-tested recipes featuring fresh, California-grown ingredients. During this time of emergency, simple preparations may be necessary and most effective.

[Click here](#) to access CDE's culinary centers recipe database.

Guidance and Waivers

STATE AND FEDERAL GUIDANCE

- Visit CDE's [School and Child and Adult Day Care Meals web page](#) for state guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic. This page is updated Fridays with new information.
- Visit CDE's [Nutrition What's New web page](#) under the Disaster tab for information on waivers.

Questions and Support

CONTACT US



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