# SNP Memo #2022-2023-31


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: October 24, 2022

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sandy***

## SUBJECT: Meal Service Options during Unanticipated School Closures

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance to school food authorities (SFAs) on meal service options during unanticipated school closures. Per 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §225.2, an unanticipated school closure is defined as any period from October through April (or any time of the year in an area with a continuous school calendar) when schools are closed unexpectedly, for example in response to a natural disaster, building repair, court order, labor-management dispute, etc. Three scenarios exist for meal service during unanticipated closures.

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP) will host an Unanticipated School Closures webinar at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 3, 2022. In order to participate you [must register here in advance for the webinar](https://doe-virginia-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DrXd1jNVTUmolAXM3_dOdA). A confirmation email will be sent after registering.

### Unanticipated Closures with Virtual Learning

Many school divisions have transitioned to utilizing virtual learning during unanticipated school closures; if students attend class virtually then meals must be made available to students. The VDOE-SNP is awaiting approval from the U. S. Department of Agriculture for statewide waivers to address this scenario to allow non-congregate feeding, parent/guardian meal pick-up, offer versus serve for high schools, and mealtime flexibility.

In the interim, divisions facing unanticipated closures should contact their assigned SNP regional specialist to request waivers for non-congregate feeding, parent/guardian meal pick-up, offer versus serve for senior high schools, and mealtime flexibility until the statewide waivers are approved.

The VDOE-SNP will notify SFAs when statewide waivers are approved. SFAs will need to request school year 2022–2023 waiver use in the SNPWeb waiver tool. As a reminder, waivers cannot be utilized until approved by the VDOE-SNP.

### Unanticipated Closures with No Virtual Learning

SFAs can utilize the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to provide meals during unanticipated closures when virtual learning is not provided. The VDOE-SNP was approved for a waiver of the requirement that SFSP or SSO meals be served only at community sites. SFAs planning to serve SFSP or SSO meals at eligible sites must indicate this in the SNPWeb program application for the months where a potential for an unanticipated closure exists. SFAs will also need to apply for use of the waiver in the SNPWeb waiver tool for either SFSP or SSO for the 2022–2023 program year.

### COVID-Related Unanticipated Closures

The VDOE-SNP received waiver approval for the 2022–2023 school year for non-congregate feeding, parent/guardian meal pick-up, and mealtime flexibility for use during COVID-related unanticipated closures. Waivers can be elected in the SNPWeb waiver tool for documented instances where a school or division has an increase in COVID-19 cases, an increase in supply chain disruptions, or staffing shortages due to COVID-19. The use of one or more of these waivers allows a SFA to serve school breakfast and national school lunch program meals remotely during a COVID-related closure.

SFAs must apply for the available waivers in the SY 2022–2023 SNPWeb waiver tool and be approved for use of the waivers prior to implementation.

The VDOE-SNP will host a webinar at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, November 3, 2022 to detail the process for waiver election to provide meals during unanticipated closures in the various scenarios. Participants [must register in advance for the webinar](https://doe-virginia-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DrXd1jNVTUmolAXM3_dOdA).

### For more information

If you have any questions, please contact your SNP regional specialist or email the SNP Policy mailbox at SNPPolicy@doe.virginia.gov.

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