# SNP Memo #2019-2020-33

[](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/index.shtml)  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: March 18, 2020

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sand*y**

Seth Benton, Food Distribution Manager, VDACS

## SUBJECT: Coronavirus (COVID-19): FAQs and Best Practices

This memo announces the release of FAQs and best practices related to meal service during unanticipated school closures due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Unanticipated closures prevent children from receiving educational instruction and the nutritious meals that they would normally receive.

Regulations found at 7 CFR 225.6(d)(1)(iv) provide guidance on using the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to feed children during unanticipated closures. The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP) applied and was approved for a statewide waiver that allows schools to serve as a SFSP or SSO site during an unanticipated closure.

### Frequently Asked Questions

On Friday, March 13, 2020, VDOE-SNP hosted a webinar entitled *Preparing for Coronavirus (COVID-19)*. A link to the webinar recording is now available in SNPWeb. In addition, VDOE-SNP compiled a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) that were posed during the webinar. The FAQs are Attachment A to this memo.

#### Best Practices

VDOE-SNP is working diligently to review and approve applications and waivers related to meal service during unanticipated school closures. Throughout the review period, VDOE-SNP compiled a list of best practices for meal service during unanticipated school closures. The best practices are Attachment B to this memo.

###### Additional Resources

Additional information and memos related to COVID-19 may be found on the [VDOE website](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/covid-19.shtml#school-nutrition).

USDA also has a Foods Program Disaster Manual available on the [FNS](https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/disaster-assistance) Website. The website has a new reference for pandemic planning.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact the specialist assigned to your region, [SNPPolicy@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:SNPPolicy@doe.virginia.gov), or email [Sandra.Curwood@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Sandra.Curwood@doe.virginia.gov). If you have questions regarding USDA Foods, please contact Seth Benton at 804-786-0532.

SCC/BDB/cc

**Attachments**

1. Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19
2. Best Practices for Meal Service during Unanticipated School Closures