# SCNP Memo #2023-2024-69

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: April 11, 2024

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

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

## SUBJECT: Waivers Available for 2024 Summer Meal Service

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school food authorities (SFAs) and community organizations operating the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of waivers available for serving meals during periods of excessive heat or air quality advisories during summer 2024. These waivers are effective from May 1, 2024–September 30, 2024, and are available only to outdoor meal sites without temperature-controlled alternatives. During periods of excessive heat or air quality advisories, SFSP or SSO sponsors may elect waivers to allow for non-congregate meal service, meal time flexibility, and parent or guardian pick-up.

### Circumstances for Waiver Usage

The excessive heat waiver may be elected on days when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued the following for the area:

* heat advisory,
* excessive heat warning, or,
* excessive heat watch.

The poor air quality waiver may be elected on days when the site’s zip code has an Air Quality Index “purple” flag or higher, as indicated by the [Air Now](https://www.airnow.gov/) website.

### SFSP and SSO Waivers

The below waivers are available only to outdoor feeding sites during periods of excessive heat or air quality advisories.

#### *Non-Congregate Meal Service*

This waiver allows SFAs and community organizations to serve meals in a non-congregate setting. With this waiver, children do not need to consume meals onsite.

#### *Meal Service Times*

This waiver eliminates the requirements surrounding set mealtime parameters for meal services.

#### *Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-Up*

This waiver allows meals to be provided to parents or guardians instead of directly to children. SFAs and community organizations must have a plan for maintaining accountability and program integrity. This includes putting in place processes to ensure that meals are distributed only to parents and guardians of eligible children, and that duplicate meals are not distributed to any child.

### Additional Details

Waivers may be used for up to 10 consecutive operating days. If a SFA or community organization needs these waivers for longer than 10 consecutive operating days, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service approval would be required.

### SNPWeb USDA Waiver Tool

Waivers must be elected for each site by the SFA or community organization within the SNPWeb USDA Waiver Tool and approved by the Virginia Department of Education, Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SCNP) before implementation. Please notify your assigned regional specialist via email after waiver tools have been submitted.

**Documentation from the NWS or** [**Air Now website**](https://www.airnow.gov/) **verifying the period of excessive heat or poor air quality must be attached to the waiver request.**

### For More Information

For more information, please contact your assigned School Nutrition Programs or Community Nutrition Programs regional specialist.

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