

# Evergreen Child Care Food Program

3850 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 210 Los Angeles, CA 90010

Tel. 213-380-3850/5345 Fax. 213-380-9050

E-mail: [joinecci@gmail.com](mailto:joinecci@gmail.com)

## **URGENT! PLEASE SEE SECOND PAGE FOR CACFP WAIVERS DURING COVID-19 (ADDED ON 03/26/20)**

March 20, 2020

Dear ECCI Providers:

To help ensure your well-being and safety during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak, we are taking a few extra precautions. All ECCI staff will continue to work from home, Monday-Friday, from 8:30AM-5:00PM. We can be reached at the same office number, (213)-380-3850; your calls will be forwarded to us. Also, we ask that everyone mail in any documents that need to be turned in via United States Postal Service (No UPS or FedEx). Please do not personally drop off any documents at our office. We can reassure you that your mail will be forwarded to us by the US Postal Service. Mail all documentations to our office address:

**3850 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 210  
Los Angeles, CA 90010**



Furthermore, ECCI will like to inform you that as of today all Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) regulations remain the same. We are aware that our state is working on authorizing flexibilities in the CACFP meal pattern and monitoring visits. We will inform you if any changes are made.

Please stay safe and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We are here for you!

Kind regards,

Erika E. Aguilar  
Program Manager

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## New USDA Waivers- Flexible Times and Grab & Go Meals Now Permitted!

March 26, 2020

Dear ECCI Provider:

This notice is in regards to the waivers that the USDA has recently approved. In response to COVID-19 national emergency, the USDA has released three new nationwide waivers to support access to food in the child nutrition programs (only 2 of the 3 are applicable to us). These waivers are effective immediately, and remain in effect through June 30, 2020, or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, **whichever is earlier**.

### 1. Meal Times Nationwide Waiver

Providers are granted more flexibility in their meal service times: Breakfast can be served before 7:00AM and after 9:00AM; Lunch before 11:00AM and after 1:30 PM; Dinner before 4:00PM and after 7:00PM; Snacks can be served at any time between major meals. Providers will need to contact our agency to update their meal schedules. It will be the provider's responsibility to review the daycare children's enrollments to verify if the times and days in care will support the provider's meal time changes. Abiding with minimum spacing between meals and/or snacks is not required during the public health emergency.

### 2. Non-congregate Feeding Nationwide Waiver

Prior to the public health emergency, the CACFP required all meals to be served in a congregate setting and had to be consumed by participants on site. This meant that all children had to be present onsite and sitting together during every meal/snack service time. However, because of the public health emergency, the CACFP is waiving this requirement at this time, until the public health emergency has been resolved. Therefore, providers are not required to follow the CACFP guideline for congregate setting. **Ensure to practice social distancing as instructed by state officials.**

Here are examples of what providers can do to ensure their daycare children are being fed:

- Providers may continue to serve registered meals on-site by maintaining social distancing between children and/or staff.

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- Providers can provide Grab & Go meals to the daycare children enrolled in their care (parent/guardian can come alone to pick up the Grab & Go meal). Meals can also be sent home with the children. Keep in mind that only **ONE** meal can be sent home.
- If a child is getting picked up early, the provider can prepare the meal for the child to take home and claim that meal. Even though the child has been served 2 meals on site, the to-go meal can still be subject for reimbursement.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Meal Times Waiver FAQ

**Are the minimum meal spacing between meals still mandated to abide?**

*A: The waiver for meal service times will allow you to have shorter time frames between meals/snacks.*

**Under the meal service time waiver, can I serve dinner before 4PM or after 7PM? If yes, am I mandated to report the changes to Evergreen prior to implementing the new service time?**

*A: Yes, you may serve dinner at either before 4PM or after 7PM, as long as notify Evergreen prior to implementing the changes and new service time.*

**Due to the impact of Covid-19 outbreak, our daycare is now open from 9AM to 11AM from Monday through Friday. Due to the changes of hours of operation, we provide breakfast at 9AM and lunch at 10:30AM. Can we still get reimbursed for those meals provided to kids, although both meals do not meet the meal service time requirement?**

*A: Both meals are reimbursable. Although both meals failed to comply with meal service time requirements, both meals can be subject for reimbursement under the meal service time waiver. However, the provider must notify our agency with such changes and receive an approval prior to implementing the changes.*

**How much shorter can the meal spacing be between meal?**

*A: There is no definite time, we recommend that you server your meals in accordance with what works best for social distancing.*

### Grab & Go (to-go) Meals FAQ

**Can I claim 2 onsite meals and 1 to-go?**

*A: Yes. Claiming 2 onsite meals and 1 to-go meal is currently allowed.*

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## **Do children have to be enrolled in my daycare in order to claim the to-go meals?**

*A: Yes, to-go meals can only be claimed for children enrolled in your daycare.*

## **What Meals qualify for Grab & Go (to-go)?**

*A: All meals. However, you can only provide one to-go meal for now.*

## **How many meals can the parents get to-go?**

*A: Currently, only one meal per child and one per day.*

## **Can sites give breakfast and lunch at the same time under Grab & Go?**

*A: Not at this time. We are waiting for the USDA to possibly approve that flexibility.*

## **For Grab & Go meals, do we need to collect a meal pick up log with signature by the parent to confirm that the meals were picked up?**

*A: No signature for pickup of meals by enrolled clients should be necessary.*

## **During Grab & Go, do children have to be there when the parent/guardian pick up the meal?**

*A: No, parent/guardian can come alone.*

## **Can I enroll to claim all meals?**

*A: You can enroll for all meals, but you can only claim up to three meals including two major meals and a snack, or one major meal and two snacks a day per child.*

Please be advised, additional waivers are on their way from USDA, so please stay tuned for upcoming updates. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at (213) 380-3850.

Sincerely,

Erika E. Aguilar  
Program Manager