

# Evergreen Child Care Inc.

*Nutrition Program*

*Registration is now  
available for **Grab &  
Go Meals** !*

*USDA released a Meal  
Pattern Waiver!*

*We have updated the  
previously published  
Grab & Go Frequently  
Asked Questions, as now  
providers may claim  
more than one meal un-  
der the Grab & Go serv-  
ing method*

# April 2020

*Newsletter*



# MEAL PATTERN REQUIREMENT WAIVER

This notification is regarding the recent USDA meal pattern requirement waiver. The California Department of Education has allowed our daycare homes and centers to serve meals that **do not** meet the CACFP meal pattern requirements due to shortage of food supplies. However, our daycare homes and centers should continue to maintain nutritional standards of CACFP to the greatest extent as possible.

This waiver in simple terms is authorizing our daycare homes and centers to create menus with the food components that are currently available through their local grocery and wholesale stores. Although you may exercise this waiver, we want to highly encourage our daycare homes and centers to serve nutritious meals to meet nutritional standards of CACFP to the best of their abilities. We understand that the Covid-19 pandemic is causing certain food items to be out of stock quickly. However, we strongly recommend to look for alternates of those food components that you are unable to find.

This waiver is effective immediately and remains in effect until April 30, 2020, or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will reevaluate the need to extend this waiver as the situation continues to evolve.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at (213) 380-3850.

# Flexible Times and Grab & Go Meals Now Permitted!

## Updated on 04/03/20

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**.

### **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.

### **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.
- 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). You may claim 2 major meals and 1 snack OR 2 snacks and 1 major meal under the Grab & Go meal service method.
- 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 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.*

**Do children have to be enrolled in my daycare in order to claim the Grab & Go meals?**

*A: Yes, Grab & Go meals can only be claimed for children enrolled in your daycare.*

**What meals qualify for Grab & Go?**

*A: All meals qualify.*

**How many meals can the parents pick up under Grab & Go?**

*A: Up to 3 meals (2 major meals and 1 snack OR 2 snacks and 1 major meal)*

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

*A: Yes (2 major meals and 1 snack OR 2 snacks and 1 major meal)*

**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 is not necessary. However, the daycare home provider does need to keep track of the meals on our Weekly Attendance Worksheet, specifically for Grab & Go meals only.*

**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 one 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.

# Grab & Go Meals Registration Form is NOW Available!

**What are Grab & Go meals?** Grab & Go meals are meals that you, the provider, prepare for children currently **NOT** attending your daycare. Given the current national health emergency, the parent or guardian may come pick up the meal (s) that you have packed for their children.

Should you wish to register to serve Grab & Go meals to your registered daycare children, the form is now available in the link below:

[http://www.evergreencacfp.org/uploads/1585957331g&g-application\\_dch.pdf](http://www.evergreencacfp.org/uploads/1585957331g&g-application_dch.pdf)

Providers interested in offering Grab & Go meals need to be approved by our agency and will need to keep record of those meals on a specific document. Please see the registration form for further details.

Should you have questions regarding this matter, please contact us at (213) 380-3850.

# Happy Birthday *Evergreen Providers!*

*Gloria Barahona*

*Karla Flores*

*Calette Gaines*

*Sheila Aline Garrett-*

*Monroe*

*Liliya Ivazova*

*Irina Jackson*

*Annabelle Kim*

*Elizabeth Lizarraga*

*Shally Lwin*

*Nadine Mcguire*

*Sandra Ortiz*

*Tatyana Popescu*

*Allison Rabaca*

*Edna Sanchez*

*Lucina Marquez San-*  
*tiago*

*Lynda Urbank*

*Griselda Urbina*

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



**This institution is an equal opportunity provider.**