Thank you to our dedicated staff.

#WICSTRONG

WIC Washington

COVID – 19 UPDATE
5-18-2020
Today’s Agenda

- Welcome – Cathy Franklin
- Opening remarks – Paul Throne
- Announcements – State staff/Carolyn Conner
- Fact Finders update – Margaret Dosland
- FMNP Overview – Steve Strong
- Questions and answers – Heidi Feston
COVID-19 in Washington State
Confirmed Cases and Deaths by Date of Illness Onset

This chart shows the progression of the COVID-19 outbreak in Washington by cases and deaths over time and is known as an epidemiologic curve. The epidemiologic curve is the curve referred to in the phrase, “flatten the curve”.

Confirmed Case Counts

Data Incomplete
Models of Eastern and Western WA highlight transmission increases to varying degrees across the state.
Waiver extension

- USDA FNS is extending waiver approvals through June 30, 2020 for all WIC State agencies that choose to continue operations under their approved waivers. State and local agency reporting requirements still apply.

- USDA will continue to monitor the public health emergency and will consider subsequent extensions of waiver approvals if the State agency: (1) cannot meet program regulatory requirements due to COVID-19, and (2) the waiver is necessary to provide assistance to participants. USDA FNS will follow-up in a subsequent communication about the process and information needed to submit a request for an extension of a waiver beyond June 30, 2020.
Announcements

- **NWA webinar: Preparing for Reopening: Considerations for Adjusting WIC Clinic Operations Throughout COVID-19**
  - Tuesday, May 19th at 12:00 pm (PT)

- Nutrition First Remote Services Session: Nutrition Education rescheduled for May 26th at 12:00 pm – **Carolyn Conner**

- Preparing for phasing in WIC clinic operations

- COVID-19 Webinars – hold times, may cancel depending on need and will give 24 hour notice
Media request:

A reporter from Huffington Post contacted Paul last week to talk about food shortages. The reporter would like to talk to some participants. Here’s her contact information if you have a participant that is willing to talk with her:

- Tara Golshan
- 650-776-1707
Fact Finders Update
2020 FMNP Update

WIC & SENIOR
Farmers Market Benefits
WELCOME HERE!

USDA & Washington State Sponsored
Farmers Market Nutrition Program

HONEY
MAY BE REDEEMED BY
SENIORS ONLY
FMNP Materials Available

**FMNP Policy and Procedure** - Available on website

- Memo 2020-51 Information about 2020 Farmers Market Program
- 2020 FMNP Frequently Asked Questions

**Farmers Market Training Materials**

- 2020 FMNP Local Agency Training- Posted on 5/15
- WIC FMNP Benefits Education

Authorized Market Lists and Farm Stores by county- Posted on 5/15

- Lists being updated as new markets and farm stores complete application for the 2020 season
Issuing FMNP Benefits and Timeline

**NEW!** The maximum per eligible participant is **$28** per year.

**NEW!** Three packs are the maximum amount for a family with three or more eligible participants.

- Begin issuing benefits **June 1, 2020**
- Notify state office of unused checks by **Aug 1, 2020**
- Issue all benefits by **Sept 30, 2020**
- Registers submitted to state office by **Oct 15, 2020**
- Document/shred unused benefits by **Oct 15, 2020**
- Participants must use benefits by **Oct 31, 2020**
FMNP Benefits – Checks and Check Packs

- Checks are ORANGE this year.
- Checks = Benefits! FMNP benefits are still issued as checks. The language changed to standardize the term benefit issuance.
- Checks are still $4.00. Check packs have seven checks for a total of $28.00 per pack.
Distribution of FMNP Benefits

- There isn’t sufficient FMNP funding for all eligible participants in Washington to receive benefits.
- Make all attempts to distribute FMNP benefits in a fair and equitable manner.

Distributing benefits at the markets:

- Is allowed in 2020, as in past years.
- Accessing Cascades is **NOT** allowed when using public or unsecured WIFI.
- Active Participant Lists will be available in SFTP folders for each participating agency by June 2, 2020.
Safety Guidance at the Market

- Follow market guidelines for safety and social distancing
- Contact the market managers prior to attending the markets to identify any rules for vendors at the markets
Determine if mailing is the most appropriate option for the participant or parent/guardian to receive FMNP benefits.

During a remote appointment:

- Confirm the mailing address and let them know the timeframe when to expect FMNP benefits to arrive in the mail.
- Share required benefits use information, including information that the checks can’t be replaced if lost or stolen.
  - **WIC FMNP Benefits Education** is available electronically to review with participants or parent/guardians in English and Spanish.
- Complete the FMNP nutrition education second contact or schedule a fruit and vegetable second contact at a future appointment.
Mailing Benefits

To mail benefits staff:

• Write on the envelope “DO NOT FORWARD, RETURN TO SENDER” and add the return address for your clinic.

• Complete the FMNP check register with required participant information and write “mailed” in the participant signature column.

• Document in the participant(s) file:
  • Who benefits were issued to, the amount issued, and if the FMNP benefits were mailed.
  • The FMNP nutrition education contact, if completed.

Note: Address labels aren’t provided by the state WIC office.
Accountability of FMNP Benefits

The local agency must account for all packs of FMNP benefits and registers received from the WIC contracted banking information services provider.

Contact the state FMNP staff:

- For approval before transferring undistributed FMNP benefits to a different agency. Packs of FMNP benefits are assigned to the agency.

- If a participant returns benefits because they changed their mind and can’t use them. The state FMNP staff can help you if you want to reissue the benefits to another participant.
Check Register Procedures

**New for 2020- Completed registers can be returned to state office by email

Email scanned registers to FMNPTeam@doh.wa.gov

If your agency can’t scan and email:
   Fax to 360-236-2345
   or
   Mail to Attn: FMNP
   Department of Health – Office of Nutrition Services
   PO Box 47886
   Olympia WA 98504
A participant signature isn’t required on the register for 2020.

Staff must leave this area blank, unless the benefits are mailed.

If all benefits associated with the register page are mailed then staff may write “Mailed” at the top and draw an arrow to the bottom line.

If date and staff are the same, staff may draw an arrow through each column.
It’s recommended to provide the FMNP check packs with an envelope, so participants and parent/guardians have information about using their benefits.

The new envelopes are being printed in English and Spanish. Order from myPRINT in late May.

Provide an English envelope when the language the person needs isn’t available.
Find Authorized Farmers Markets and Farm Stores

Use the WICShopper App or:

Use the FMNP [website](#) to print or show the list of approved farmers markets and farm stores with locations, days and hours of operation along with directions.
FMNP Nutrition Education, Materials, & Resources

**FMNP Benefits Ed**  
*For Participants, Parents, & Guardians*

Posted in English and Spanish:
- [WIC Remote Services](#)
- [FMNP Training Materials](#)

**Materials**  
*Order from myPRINT*

- FMNP envelope
- English & Spanish FMNP brochures
- NEW! Children’s books

**Remote Services**  
*Electronic Nutrition Ed*

- [WIC Publications](#)
- [USDA MyPlate videos](#)
- [USDA Seasonal Resources](#)
- [USDA MyKitchen](#)
Questions?

Contact us with your questions:

Policy Support phone: 1-800-841-1410, press 3, then press 1 or email at wicpolicysupport@doh.wa.gov

Your Local Program Consultant (LPC) or email at wiclpc@doh.wa.gov
To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.