



Food Distribution National Policy Memorandum

United States
Department of
Agriculture

DATE: July 3, 2007

Food and
Nutrition
Service

POLICY NO: FD-066: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) & Processing Program, Charitable Institutions & Summer Camps

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SUBJECT: Continuation of Commodity Assistance during a Human Pandemic

To better assist State and local planning for a potential human pandemic, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is providing guidance concerning the operation of its commodity nutrition assistance programs during a major pandemic event.

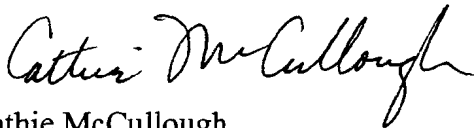
During a human pandemic outbreak, public health officials anticipate the need for “social distancing” as a means of minimizing the spread of illness by limiting person-to-person contact. As a result, commodity feeding that takes place in congregate settings, such as schools, soup kitchens participating in TEFAP, and sites set up for the mass feeding of victims during times of disaster will be discouraged. In such instances, commodity feeding is more likely to occur, with appropriate safeguards, through programs that have the capability of distributing commodities to individual households for consumption at home.

It is possible that, for large-scale human pandemic outbreaks, the President would issue a disaster or emergency declaration for an area. In such instances, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act affords Federal agencies authority to waive Federal administrative requirements to ensure the continued operation of Federal programs. In such instances, FNS may, depending on the nature and scope of the outbreak, explore options for waiving Federal administrative program requirements to ensure the continuation of benefits to eligible program participants to the extent possible.

A large-scale human pandemic outbreak could also adversely affect the ability of State and local agencies, and other entities, such as warehouses and carriers, to perform the functions necessary to deliver commodities to State and local agencies. We strongly

encourage State and local agencies to work together to identify viable alternatives to existing distribution networks that could be implemented should the need arise. In such an environment, FNS intends to work closely with State agencies and other commodity partners and stakeholders to ensure the continued distribution of commodities to the extent possible.

For more information on how to respond to a human pandemic and other disasters, local agencies should contact their State agency. In addition, general information about pandemics can be found on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' web site at www.pandemicflu.gov, and information about responding to disasters can be found on the FNS web site at www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fd-disasters/default.htm.



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