



## Mississippi Department of Education

John W. Jordan, Ed. D. Interim State Superintendent of Education

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### Office of Healthy Schools

Shane McNeill • Director, Office of Healthy Schools • Ph: (601) 359-1737

Gary May • Director • Child Nutrition • Ph: (601) 354-7015 • Fax: (601) 354-7595

## Memorandum

**Date:** September 11, 2009

**To:** All Food Service Administrators

**From:** Gary May

**Subject:** Waiver for Providing Meal Service Due to H1N1 School Closing

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Federal regulations governing the School Lunch, Breakfast and After School Snack Programs require that these meals be served during school hours and in a congregate setting. If a school is closed due to the H1N1 influenza virus students no longer have access to the School Lunch, Breakfast and After School Snack Programs provided during a normal school day.

In the event of an unanticipated school closure due to the H1N1 influenza virus, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has authorized a waiver allowing the operation of the Summer Food Service Program during the time in which a school is closed due to the H1N1 influenza virus. Attached to this email are copies of the Addendum to the State Agency Agreement and a Waiver Request for your review. These forms will be available on our web site in PDF format which can be completed and then printed for signatures and submitted to our office. **If your district is anticipating closing a school due to the H1N1 virus, please contact our office as early as possible to review the requirements of this waiver and to assist in completion of the forms.**

In the event of a school closure due to H1N1, the school district must amend its' agreement with the State Agency to operate a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). If the school district did not operate the SFSP last year the district could allow a community organization that did operate the SFSP last year to operate the program on their behalf. This SFSP will operate as normal with waivers granted to selected federal requirements such as the requirement to consume the meal on site and required training of staff. Meals served must still meet meal pattern requirements, must establish an accurate meal count, must maintain all supporting documentation and must comply with safety standards established by the MS Department of Health. Closed schools with 50% free and reduced eligible students can feed all enrolled students and siblings. Closed schools with less than 50% free and reduced eligible must target meal service to low income students. Adult meals are not reimbursable under this program.

Again, please contact this office as early as possible if you anticipate a school closure due to the H1N1 influenza virus. Help Desk number is 601-354-7014.

10-05-CN

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500 Greymont Avenue, Suite F • P. O. Box 771 • Jackson, MS 39205-0771