



Dear participant: We invite you to participate in a survey and share your experiences about meal distribution during COVID-19 through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and/or Seamless Summer Option (SSO). Your responses will help inform our research examining the impact of COVID-19 related school closures on children's health and the role of food assistance programs offered during the pandemic. We are conducting this study in our New Jersey Child Health Study communities: Camden, New Brunswick, Newark, and Trenton.

- The survey takes about 30 minutes to complete
- You can save your responses and complete the survey in more than one sitting. Please do not hit submit until you have answered all the questions.
- Participation is voluntary and the information you provide in the survey will be kept confidential. Your name or the name of your school/organization will never be identified in any reports using the data.
- In appreciation of your completion of the survey, a \$25 gift card will be sent to you.

The New Jersey Child Health Study is funded by the National Institutes of Health and conducted jointly by Rutgers University and Arizona State University. This study aims to identify policies and programs that have promise in improving the health of children in your community and the nation.

If you have questions about this questionnaire, please contact Emily Melnick from Arizona State University at [emily.melnick@asu.edu](mailto:emily.melnick@asu.edu). If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in the research, you may contact the IRB Administrator at ASU at:

Chair of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board  
ASU Office of Research Integrity and Assurance  
CenterPoint, 660 S. Mill Avenue Suite 315  
Mail Code 6111

Tel: 480-965-6788

Email: [research.integrity@asu.edu](mailto:research.integrity@asu.edu)

Yes, I consent

First Name

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Last Name

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Name of the sponsor organization you represent

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Address of the sponsor organization

Street Address 

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City 

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State 

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Postal code 

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Number of sites in each city covered by your organization. If you do not operate any sites in a city, please enter 0.

Camden \_\_\_\_\_

New Brunswick \_\_\_\_\_

Newark \_\_\_\_\_

Trenton \_\_\_\_\_



2. When using SSO or SFSP, what types of meals have you provided? Check all that apply.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Snack	Supper	Did not use SSO or SFSP
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start of the 2020-21 SY to start of hybrid instruction <b>Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Which of the following nationwide waivers issued by USDA have you opted into since March 2020? Check all that apply.

- Non-Congregate (allows meals to be served in non-group settings)
- Meal Pattern (allows flexibility to serve meals that do not meet meal pattern requirements)
- Parent Pickup (allows parents/guardians to pick up food without children present)
- Area Eligibility (waives requirement that sites must be in areas in which at least 50% of children live in low-income households)
- Site Visit (waives first week SFSP sponsor site visit requirements)
- Closed Enrolled Sites (allows closed enrolled sites to reopen based on area eligibility)
- Monitoring Requirements (waives onsite monitoring requirements)
- Other waivers (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- None of these

*Display This Question:*

*If 3. Which of the following nationwide waivers issued by USDA have you opted into since March 2020?... != None of these*

4. How have these waivers changed your usual practices and meals you offer? Please provide your answer in the box below.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How would you describe the financial condition of your meal service operations during the following time periods?

	Operated at a loss	Operated without losses	Not sure/Don't know
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start of the 2020-21 SY to start of hybrid instruction <b>Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. During each of the periods listed below, what other types of food assistance did your organization regularly (at least once a month) offer to families besides USDA reimbursable school meals? Check all that apply.

	USDA Farm to Families food boxes	Assistance for enrolling in other food assistance programs (SNAP or WIC)	Food Pantry on site	Other food assistance programs	None
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>







10. How many days, on average, was your site open for meals during each of the following time periods?

	# of days per week
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	
Summer break <b>Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	
Start of the 2020-21 SY to start of hybrid instruction <b>Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	

11. On the days when your site(s) was open, for how many hours, *on average*, were meals available?

	# of hours per week
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	
Summer break <b>Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	
Start of the 2020-21 SY to start of hybrid instruction <b>Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	

12. Could meals be picked up for multiple days at a time?

	Yes	No
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start of the 2020-21 SY to start of hybrid instruction <b>Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. What was the maximum number of days for which meals were provided over a week for each of the following time periods?

	# of days of meals
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	
Summer break <b>Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	
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**Healthfulness of Food Offerings**

14. How often were whole grain rich foods (at least 50% whole grain) or 100% whole grains provided during the week?

	Most or all days of the week	Some days of the week	Almost never or never
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start of the 2020-21 SY to start of hybrid instruction <b>Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. How often were fresh vegetables provided as part of the meals each week?

	Most or all days of the week	Some days of the week	Almost never or never
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start of the 2020-21 SY to start of hybrid instruction <b>Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. How often were fresh fruits provided as part of the meals each week?

	Most or all days of the week	Some days of the week	Almost never or never
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start of the 2020-21 SY to start of hybrid instruction <b>Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. How often were packaged foods provided as part of the meal (e.g., muffins, cookies, and chips; do not include packaged fresh fruits or vegetables)?

	Most or all days of the week	Some days of the week	Almost never or never
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start of the 2020-21 SY to start of hybrid instruction <b>Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



19. What other types of beverages were provided on a regular basis (at least once a week)? Check all that apply for each time period.

	100% fruit or vegetable juice	Sweetened fruit drinks	Other sugar-sweetened beverages	None of these
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Family Participation and Outreach**



20. How were you informing families about the meal distribution programs offered by your organization? Check all that apply.

- Signage outside of school and in community settings
- Door hanger
- Radio/TV ads
- Newspaper
- Automated calls to families
- Automated electronic messages
- Automated text messages to families
- Letters mailed home to families
- Social media pages
- Organization/school websites
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

21. What do you feel were the main barriers to participation in meal programs from the point of view of families? Pick the top 3 barriers.

- Lack of transportation/location of the site
- Lack of knowledge about the program
- Language barriers
- Lack of childcare
- Stigma attached to eating “free” food
- Safety concerns for children and families (e.g., maintaining social distance)
- Limited food variety
- Rigid schedule of timing of meal pick-ups
- Selection of foods did not meet family preferences
- Too much food waste
- Don't know
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

22. Based on your experience, what do you think were the three biggest challenges as a sponsor implementing a summer food service program during COVID? Pick the top three challenges.

- Inadequate funds to operate the program
- Supply chain disruptions

- Paperwork
- Staff shortages
- Ensuring staff safety (e.g., lack of PPE)
- Maintaining nutritional quality of the meals offered
- Ensuring safety of students and families when accessing meals
- Facilities for food preparation or storage
- Materials for preparation of foods (e.g., bags, boxes)
- Transportation Challenges for Student Meal Pick-Up

23. What are some of the most innovative ideas/techniques that school districts and/or community sites have used to increase participation in meal programs (e.g., free delivery to families, special meals on some days, combining with other programs like produce boxes). Please provide your answer below.

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24. Have the flexibilities offered through USDA waivers impacted the quality and healthfulness of the meals you provide? Please provide your answer below.

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25. Are there any additional thoughts, biggest successes and/or challenges regarding distributing meals during the COVID-19 pandemic you would like to share with us? Please provide your answer below.

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