



Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

We are grateful for your work to feed children during the COVID-19 pandemic. We invite you to participate in a survey and share your experiences about meal distribution during the pandemic. 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 **20 minutes** to complete
- In addition to the \$2.00 attached to this survey, we will send you a **\$20 gift card** once we receive your response to thank you for completing this survey.
- Participation is voluntary and the information you provide in the survey will be kept confidential.
- Identifying information will only be used to send you the gift card and to link to other study data. All Identifying information will be replaced with codes for analysis purposes. Your name or the name of your school/organization will never be identified in any reports using the data.
- Please reflect on programs and practices at **SITE NAME** to answer the survey questions
- **Once the survey has been completed**, please mail using the return envelope with prepaid postage.
- De-identified data collected as a part of current study may be shared with other investigators for future research purposes.

**Alternatively**, you may choose to complete an [online version](#) of the survey by typing the link below into your web browser:

**[bit.ly/njchs259](https://bit.ly/njchs259)**

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.

As you well know, community meal distribution during the pandemic is key to food access for children who are out of school during the COVID-19 related closures. Your insights will be crucial to collecting meaningful data on these programs.

If you have questions about this questionnaire, please contact Punam Ohri-Vachaspati from Arizona State University at pohrivac@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

Sincerely,

**Punam Ohri-Vachaspati, PhD, RD**  
Arizona State University  
College of Health Solutions

**Michael Yedidia, PhD**  
Rutgers University  
Center for State Health Policy

**Please fill in the following information:**

**Your First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal Distribution Site Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Site Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Site City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Site Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Sponsor Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. In this survey, we ask that you respond to questions for six time periods, as we recognize that meal service patterns may have changed over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Did your site provide meals during the following time periods? If your site did not serve meals for any of the listed time periods below, please describe the reason.

	Yes, meals were served during this period	If no meals were served during this period, why not?
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Summer break <b>Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<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"/>	
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Summer break <b>Jun 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**For the remainder of this survey, if your site did not serve meals during any of the listed periods, please leave boxes in the row which corresponds to the listed time period unchecked.**

2. What types of meals did your site provide to students during the pandemic at the following time points? Check all that apply.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Snack	Supper
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<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"/>
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Compared to the year before the pandemic, how did lunch meal participation trends at your site change during the following time periods?

	A lot less participate	Somewhat less participate	About the same	A little more participate	A lot more participate
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 19<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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 26<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"/>

4. During each of the periods listed below, which of the listed service models did you use to provide food or meals? Check all that apply.

	Drive-thru or curbside distribution	Walk-up distribution	Direct home delivery	Distribution along bus routes	Pre-order via app, phone, or online form	Meals for on-site consumption
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 19<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"/>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 26<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

	# of days per week
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	
Summer break <b>Jun 19<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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	
Summer break <b>Jun 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	

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

	# of hours per week
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	
Summer break <b>Jun 19<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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	
Summer break <b>Jun 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	

7. Some sites allowed families to pick up meals for more than one day at a time. At your site, how many days' worth of meals were families allowed to pick up at one time?

	# of days of meals
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	
Start of the pandemic to the end of the 2019-20 SY <b>Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	
Summer break <b>Jun 19<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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	
Summer break <b>Jun 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	

8. How often were whole grain rich foods (at least 50% whole grain) or 100% whole grains provided during the week? (Consider all meals served at your site, i.e. breakfast, lunch, supper.)

	Most or all meals	Some meals	Almost never or never
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 12<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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 19<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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. How often were fresh vegetables provided as part of the meals each week? (Consider all meals served at your site, i.e. breakfast, lunch, supper).

	Most or all meals	Some meals	Almost never or never
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 12<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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 19<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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



10. How often were fresh fruits provided as part of the meals each week? (Consider all meals served at your site, i.e. breakfast, lunch, supper)

	Most or all meals	Some meals	Almost never or never
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 12<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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 19<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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. During the pandemic, did your use of packaged snack foods (e.g. sweet or savory packaged snacks) as part of meals change? Do not include packaged fresh fruit, vegetables, or pre-made sandwiches. (Consider all meals served, i.e. breakfast, lunch, supper you offered)

	Most or all meals	Some meals	Almost never or never
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 12<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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 19<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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

	Full fat (whole) or 2% (reduced-fat) <b>unflavored</b> milk	Fat-free (skim) or 1% (low-fat) <b>unflavored</b> milk	Full fat (whole) or 2% (reduced-fat) <b>flavored</b> milk	1% (low-fat) <b>flavored</b> milk	Fat-free (skim) <b>flavored</b> milk	No milk was provided
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 19<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"/>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 26<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. 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
Year prior to the pandemic <b>Mar 2019 – Mar 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>	<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"/>
Hybrid instruction to the end of the 2020-21 SY <b>April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Jun 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer break <b>Jun 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. How were you informing families about the meal distribution programs offered at your site? Check *all* that apply.

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

15. 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) \_\_\_\_\_

16. 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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