



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

February 19, 2009



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

VENDOR ALERT 2009-02

TO: ALL WIC VENDORS
SUBJECT: MORATORIUM ON NEW VENDOR AUTHORIZATIONS

Purpose

I am writing to inform you that the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program is implementing a temporary moratorium on accepting all WIC authorization applications from vendors. The moratorium will be effective March 12, 2009. The moratorium will continue through December 31, 2009 for businesses that do not currently have a store authorized. Applications from current vendors to add new store locations to their existing vendor agreement will resume in October 2009. Please note, we will process applications received prior to March 12, 2009.

Background

A moratorium on vendor authorizations is critical to ensure the successful implementation of the new Federal Food Package Interim Rule by October 1, 2009, as required by the United States Department of Agriculture. WIC must transition over 4,000 currently authorized vendors from present requirements to the new federal requirements by October 1, 2009. These changes will require executing new vendor agreements, training all vendors, established new stocking requirements, and revising store on-site reviews and monitoring guidelines. A vendor application moratorium allows for the evaluation under current requirements of all new vendor applications received by March 12, 2009.

Participant Access

WIC will continue to ensure that stores are available for participants to buy their supplemental foods. The WIC Program will evaluate potential participant access pursuant to Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 40740(h).

Questions

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions, please contact your WIC Vendor Consultant at (916) 928-8705.

David Markell, Chief
Vendor Management Branch
California WIC Program



Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program
3901 Lennane Drive, MS 8600, Sacramento, CA 95834
P O Box 997375 Sacramento, CA 95899-7375

(916) 928-8500 Internet Address: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/pages/default.aspx