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GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

April 9, 2020

VENDOR ALERT 2020 – 03

TO: ALL WIC VENDORS
SUBJECT: TEMPORARY EXPANSIONS TO THE WIC AUTHORIZED FOOD LIST AND AUTHORIZED PRODUCT LIST DUE TO COVID-19

Purpose

The California Department of Public Health, Women, Infants and Children Division (CDPH/WIC) is notifying WIC authorized vendors of a temporary expansion to the WIC Authorized Food List, and that WIC participants have been informed that substitutions should be made when a prescribed food benefit is unavailable for purchase.

Background

On March 30, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued [Executive Order N-40-20](#) that allows CDPH/WIC to implement temporary WIC Authorized Food List (WAFL) regulations during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency.

This temporary WAFL enables CDPH/WIC, for most food categories, to temporarily add new products to the Authorized Product List (APL) that meet the federal minimum requirements for authorizing foods found in 7 Code of Federal Regulations part 246.10(e)(12), table 4. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) also granted CDPH/WIC a waiver to make additional food substitution exceptions, which are described in the Guidelines for Temporary New Food Items shown below.

Products currently in the APL and authorized in the current [Shopping Guide](#) will continue to be authorized.

CDPH/WIC will continuously add new foods to the temporary APL. WIC participants will begin seeing new options authorized in their food benefits starting on April 7, 2020.

CDPH/WIC has authority to implement the Temporary WAFL until May 31, 2020. Please note, the Temporary WAFL may be discontinued prior to this date, or extended with approval from the USDA. CDPH/WIC will remove the temporarily-authorized products from the APL when the Temporary WAFL is no longer in effect.



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Action for Vendors

CDPH/WIC asks all vendors to notify employees about these temporary changes, explaining that for a limited time, if WIC participants find that the foods they have been prescribed are unavailable, they are allowed to buy foods that are different or different sizes than they would normally purchase. Vendors should share with employees the instructions contained in this vendor alert, as well as ensure the most current APL is downloaded everyday, as required.

Processing a WIC Transaction

California WIC Card: There is no change. The cashier should rely on the WIC EBT system to either approve or not approve purchases.

WIC paper checks: The cashier can reference the guidelines shown in the table on the following pages.

How Participants Will Find Authorized Products

In addition to the authorized foods listed in the current [Shopping Guide](#), participants will be able to buy new foods following the guidelines listed in the table shown on the following pages. WIC must still ensure products in the APL meet federal minimum requirements; therefore, participants should not expect every available brand of the food types listed in the table to be authorized.

The best way for participants to identify newly-authorized products is by scanning UPCs using the California WIC App. Information is also posted on the CDPH/WIC web page [New WIC Food Choices During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

Questions

If you have questions about the expansion to the WIC Authorized Food List or Authorized Product List, please send an email to WICfoods@cdph.ca.gov.

You may also contact your WIC Vendor Consultant or call toll-free (855) WIC-STOR or (855) 942-7867, or contact the WIC Vendor Management Branch by email at WICVENDORINFO@cdph.ca.gov.



Lantrel Stockton, Chief
Vendor Management Branch
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Division

Guidelines for Temporary New Food Options

Food Category	New Options: Guidelines
COW'S MILK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional sizes: quart, half gallon, or .75 gallon (96 oz) • Cultured milks, such as acidophilus milk, buttermilk, or kefir milk • Specialty milks, such as calcium-fortified milk, milk with added DHA, Ultra Heat Treated (UHT) shelf-stable milk, A2 milk, ultra-filtered milk, or protein-fortified milk • Organic milk
GOAT'S MILK NEW FOOD!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goat's milk in quarts or half gallons • Must be pasteurized • May be purchased using the cow's milk benefit
CHEESE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional sizes: 8 oz or 32 oz containers • Additional varieties: Swiss, Muenster, Provolone, or process American • Sliced or shredded cheese • Organic Cheese
YOGURT (COW'S MILK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional sizes: 2 oz, 4 oz, or 16 oz • Multipacks • Additional brands • Additional flavors • Greek yogurt • Yogurt with artificial, reduced-calorie, or no-calorie sweeteners • Organic yogurt
TOFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional sizes: 8 oz or 16 oz • Additional brands
SOY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional sizes: .75 gallon (96 oz) or 1 gallon • Additional brands • Flavored soy, such as vanilla
JUICE: BOTTLED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any flavor juice that is 100% juice • Contains at least 80% daily value vitamin C per serving, even if not stated on front label • Additional sizes: 48 oz, 96 oz, or 128 oz • Organic juice

Food Category	New Options: Guidelines
JUICE: CONCENTRATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any flavor juice that is 100% juice Contains at least 80% daily value vitamin C per serving, even if not stated on front label Organic juice
JUICE: REFRIGERATED NEW FOOD!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sizes: 48 oz, 64 oz, 96 oz, or 128 oz Any flavor juice that is 100% juice Contains at least 80% daily value vitamin C per serving, even if not stated on front label Organic juice
EGGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional sizes: half dozen (carton of 6) or 1.5 dozen (carton of 18) Brown eggs Specialty eggs, such as cage-free, vitamin-enriched, pastured, low cholesterol, or DHA-enriched eggs Organic eggs
BREAKFAST CEREAL: WHOLE GRAIN AND OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional whole grain cereals Organic whole grain cereals
BREAKFAST CEREAL: INSTANT OATMEAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional brands Organic instant oatmeal
BREAKFAST CEREAL: CRISP(Y) RICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional brands Organic crisp(y) rice
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (FRESH AND PROCESSED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Products with artificial, reduced-calorie, or no-calorie sweeteners. Canned fruit cocktail Tomato sauce Salsa
WHOLE WHEAT BREAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional sizes: 14-24 oz containers only when 16 oz containers are unavailable Bread without "100% Whole Wheat" on the front label Bread with artificial, reduced-calorie, or no-calorie sweeteners Organic bread

Food Category	New Options: Guidelines
WHOLE GRAIN BREAD NEW FOOD!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional sizes: 14-24 oz containers only when 16 oz containers are unavailable • Bread without “100% Whole Grain” on the front label • Bread with artificial, reduced-calorie, or no-calorie sweeteners • Organic Bread
WHOLE GRAIN OPTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional sizes: 14-24 oz containers only when 16 oz containers are unavailable • Additional brands for corn and whole wheat tortillas and whole wheat pasta • Products with artificial, reduced-calorie, or no-calorie sweeteners • Organic tortillas, organic oatmeal, and organic rice
FISH (CANNED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canned fish packed in oil • Canned fish packed in any sauce • Organic canned fish
MATURE LEGUMES: DRY BEANS AND PEAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Size: 32 oz • Fat-free refried canned beans • Baked beans • Organic canned beans
MATURE LEGUMES: CANNED BEANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formerly restricted to small group of participants; may now be purchased by all participants if they have either dry or canned beans in their food benefits • Fat-free refried canned beans • Baked beans • Organic canned beans
PEANUT BUTTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional size: 36 oz • Organic peanut butter
INFANT CEREAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional size: 32 oz • Additional brands and types
INFANT FRUITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional sizes: 2 oz or 6 oz • Additional brands • Infant fruits sold in pouches
INFANT VEGETABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional sizes: 2 oz or 6 oz • Additional brands • Infant vegetables sold in pouches
INFANT MEAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional brands • Infant meats sold in pouches