



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Western Region

90 Seventh Street
Suite #10-100
San Francisco, CA
94103

June 23, 2020

Catherine Lopez
Acting Division Chief
WIC Nutrition Division
California Department of Public Health
3901 Lennane Drive
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear Ms. Lopez:

Thank you for your correspondence on June 11, 2020 requesting an extension of program flexibilities in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) as a result of significant impacts to providing WIC program services to participants due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). This letter outlines responses from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to your requests for waiver extensions, by approval status.

Approved:

Pursuant to the authority granted in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), USDA FNS approves your request to extend the following waivers through July 31, 2020:

- Physical presence
- Remote benefits issuance
- Separation of duties
- Extended certification periods
- Medical documentation
- Local Agency monitoring
- Vendor preauthorization visits

All terms and conditions outlined within the previously approved waivers apply. Should you need to extend these waivers beyond July 31, 2020, please submit a request using the [COVID-19 WIC State Agency Waiver Extension Request](#) template between the 1st and 7th of July.

Approved with additional justification requested for any subsequent extension requests:

Pursuant to the authority granted in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), USDA FNS also approves your request to extend the following waiver(s) through July 31, 2020:

- Whole grains

- Legumes
- Tofu
- Minimum Stocking Requirements (MSRs)

All terms and conditions outlined within the previously approved waivers apply. Please note that if the circumstances described in the waiver extension request stay the same or improve, as anticipated based upon the information provided, FNS may deny subsequent requests to extend these waivers. Should you need to extend these waivers beyond July 31, 2020, please submit a request using the [COVID-19 WIC State Agency Waiver Extension Request](#) template between the 1st and 7th of July. The extension request should include additional information and/or outline changes to conditions within the State agency's jurisdiction that would justify an additional extension.

During the waiver extension period, California WIC is expected to work with its local agency counterparts to support the return to normal operations while continuing to meet impacted individuals' ongoing needs.

As always, we thank you for your commitment to addressing the operational challenges impeding the delivery of WIC benefits to women, infants, and children in need. If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-437-8804 or Chad Davis-Montgomery at 415-579-4263.

Sincerely,



Marisa Cheung
Director
Special Nutrition Programs
Food and Nutrition Service
Western Region