



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

May 27, 2009



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

VENDOR ALERT 2009-07

TO: ALL WIC VENDORS

SUBJECT: UPDATE REGARDING VENDOR AUTHORIZATIONS MORATORIUM

Purpose

I am writing to inform you that as of June 1, 2009, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program will accept applications from a currently authorized WIC vendor who is requesting authorization for a new store site. In order to be considered for authorization, the new store site must have been authorized by the previous ownership as of March 12, 2009, the effective date of the moratorium. WIC continues to have a moratorium on new vendor authorizations and for new store sites not authorized as of March 12, 2009.

Background

Effective March 12, 2009, the WIC Program implemented a temporary moratorium on accepting all WIC authorization applications from vendors. The moratorium will continue through December 31, 2009 for businesses that do not currently have a store authorized. Applications from current authorized vendors to add new store locations, except as noted above, to their existing vendor agreement will resume in October 2009.

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, ensuring new stocking requirements are met, and revising store on-site reviews and monitoring guidelines.

Timeline Expectations

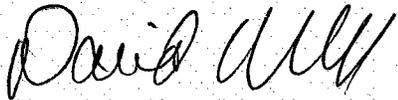
Even though WIC will be accepting applications from currently authorized vendors who are applying for a recently authorized store site as specified above, processing of the applications will be based on a combination of vendor application completion, participant access issues and WIC Program activities related to the implementation of the new food package.



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Questions

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



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