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GAVIN NEWSOM
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April 01, 2021

VENDOR ALERT 2021 – 02

TO: ALL WIC VENDORS

SUBJECT: UPCOMING FOOD PACKAGE CHANGES, EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2021: RETURN OF REGULAR WIC FOODS AND TEMPORARY CASH-VALUE BENEFIT INCREASE TO \$35

Purpose

The California Department of Public Health, Women, Infants and Children Division (CDPH/WIC) is notifying all WIC authorized vendors that effective June 1, 2021, the following food package changes will take place:

- CDPH/WIC will return to authorizing regular WIC foods with the ending of the COVID-19 Expanded Authorized Product List (APL). This change will coincide with the [repeal of the Temporary WIC Authorized Food List \(WAFL\)](#). The COVID-19 foods will no longer be available in the APL at that time.
- CDPH/WIC will temporarily increase the Cash-Value Benefit (CVB) for women and children to \$35 per person per month. This increase will be for four months, for the benefit periods of June-September.

Background

Return of Regular WIC Foods

CDPH/WIC implemented Temporary WAFL regulations and the expanded APL with additional COVID-19 food choices for participants in April 2020. CDPH/WIC made these changes in response to food outages caused by supply-chain disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic and advised that these new food choices were available to participants when regular WIC foods were unavailable.

Currently, there are no reported food outages of significance in California, which is the reason why CDPH/WIC is returning to authorizing regular WIC foods.

CVB Increase

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) into law, allowing the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to temporarily increase the CVB up to a maximum of \$35 for Fruit and Vegetable purchases for women and children.



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**Action for
Vendors**

CDPH/WIC asks all vendors to notify employees that the temporary changes to the WIC Authorized Food List will end on June 1, 2021. The COVID-19 foods will no longer be available. Additionally, notify staff that WIC participant CVB will be increased to \$35 per participant.

Vendors must continue to ensure that the most current APL is downloaded every day, as required.

Please note: There is no change to processing a WIC Card transaction. Cashiers should continue to rely on the WIC EBT system to approve or decline WIC Card purchases.

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.

For additional questions 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
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