



March 25, 2020

Vendor News Flash

Temporary & Permanent Changes to WIC Approved Foods

The recent events surrounding COVID-19 have made it difficult to keep WIC approved foods stocked for vendors and available for participants.

Temporary Flexibilities

To support our WIC community, Texas WIC will provide flexibility and temporarily lift restrictions on the food categories listed below. These flexibilities should only be utilized when prescribed food items are unavailable.

Fluid Milk. Participants issued fat-free, ½%, or 1% milks will also be able to purchase 2% milk and low-fat/non-fat options that include calcium-fortified, high-protein, organic, docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), and omega-3 milks. Flavored milk will not be allowed.

Participants issued whole milk will also be able to purchase whole milk options that include calcium-fortified, high-protein, organic, DHA, and omega-3 milks. Flavored milk will not be allowed.

Whole-Wheat Bread. Participants will be allowed to substitute any brand and size of whole-wheat bread. This includes brands that say "whole wheat," "100% whole wheat," "stone ground 100% whole wheat," "whole grain 100% whole wheat," and "whole wheat with honey."

Eggs. Participants will be allowed to substitute different carton sizes, including a half-dozen or one-and-a-half dozen eggs of any type. Texas WIC will lift the restrictions on brown, pasture-raised, free-range, and organic eggs.



Whole-Wheat Pasta. Participants will be allowed to substitute any brand of 16-ounce whole-wheat pasta.

Brown Rice. Participants will be allowed to substitute any brand of 16-ounce brown rice.

Permanent Changes

To allow for more flexibility, fruits and vegetables in containers, including cans, glass jars and plastic tubs, are allowed **now** rather than the planned fiscal year 2021 release.

Canned Fruits and Vegetables (choose any brand)

- Any size can, glass jar or plastic container
- Single or mixed
- Organic or regular
- Regular or low-sodium
- Fruit can be in juice or water
- Unsweetened apple sauce is allowed

NOT WIC Approved

- ⊗ Pouches or packets
- ⊗ Dried fruit
- ⊗ Fruit with added sugar, artificial sweetener or any type of syrup
- ⊗ Cream-style vegetables
- ⊗ Vegetables with cream, oil, sauce or meat
- ⊗ Soups, ketchup, pickles or olives

Effective immediately, vendors need to download the Authorized Product List (APL) to ensure your systems will download the most updated APL correctly. If you experience an issue, please email the label with brand name, size, and UPC bar code to WICUPC@hsc.state.tx.us for addition to the APL.

Vendor Management and Operations (VMO) will continue to monitor and provide updates as necessary. In the meantime, the temporary lift of restrictions on milk, bread, eggs, pasta and rice will continue until further notice when stocking is no longer an issue.

VMO is ready to assist should you have any questions regarding specifics of this Vendor News Flash. Please contact the Vendor Outreach Branch at WICVendorRelations@hsc.state.tx.us or 1-800-252-9629.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.