



March 18, 2020

Vendor News Flash

WIC Vendor Monitoring Suspended

Due to the flexibilities around monitoring permitted by USDA, Texas WIC Vendor Management and Operations Unit (VMO) is immediately suspending the following activities:

- Monitoring of Least Expensive Brands (LEB)
- LEB labeling requirements
- On-site store evaluations and technical assistance

Vendors should continue to sell the declared LEBs when possible, but in order to ensure WIC participants have access to their food benefits when restocking particular brands may be challenging, the monitoring of LEBs will be suspended. Vendors will not be penalized for selling more than 15 percent of non-LEB items.

Due to the increased demand for items and the likelihood of items being moved by store employees and shoppers, LEB labels might inadvertently get shifted or placed under incorrect items. Vendors will not be penalized for these instances of incorrect labeling or for a missing LEB label.

VMO is suspending on-site store evaluations and technical assistance in order to support vendors as they attempt to keep their shelves stocked for shoppers. As always, the Vendor Outreach Branch is still available for phone or email technical assistance.

VMO will suspend these activities effective March 1, 2020 until further notice.

VMO is ready to assist our vendor partners. Should you have any questions regarding this Vendor News Flash, please contact VMO's Compliance Oversight Branch at WICCostContainment@hhsc.state.tx.us or Paulo Reis, Team Lead, at 512-788-3709.