



September 17, 2020

Vendor News Flash

Expiration of Temporary Food Substitutions and Least Expensive Brand Monitoring Waivers

Expiration of Temporary Food Substitutions

Effective **September 30, 2020**, Texas WIC's temporary food substitution flexibilities will expire, and these foods will not be available for purchase as a WIC benefit. Since March 2020, temporary food substitutions have been available to WIC vendors who may have experienced stocking issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Food categories that have had additional food substitutions were fluid milk, whole-wheat bread, eggs, whole wheat pasta and brown rice. Please refer to the March 25 [Vendor News Flash](#) for specifics about the previously allowable substitutions by food category.

Also, please see the July 1 (revised August 12) [Vendor News Flash](#) for a list of approved foods for fiscal year 2021. The FY21 Texas WIC Shopping Guide will be available to order or download on October 1, 2020. As a reminder, download the Authorized Product List (APL) daily to ensure your electronic benefits transfer (EBT) system will have the most updated APL.

Least Expensive Brand (LEB) Monitoring Resumes

On **October 1, 2020**, the Texas WIC Compliance Oversight Branch will resume monitoring of LEB sales. At least 85 percent of a vendor outlet's monthly WIC redemptions within LEB food categories must be the vendor outlet's declared LEB. In the event a vendor runs out of an LEB, the vendor must sell the next least expensive brand of that product available on the shelf at that time. See [Policy No. WV: 02.0](#) for more information.

As a reminder, LEB food categories as of October 1, 2020, are milk, cheese, juice, whole wheat bread and tortillas.

Texas WIC will continue to suspend the following activities that take place in your store until further notice:

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Vendor Monitoring	Onsite Evaluations for Vendor Applicants	Technical Assistance**
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**Virtual technical assistance will still be available to all vendor outlets upon request as needed.

The Texas WIC Vendor Management and Operations Unit will monitor and provide updates as necessary. Should you have any questions about LEB topics, please email the Compliance Oversight Branch at WICLEB@hhsc.state.tx.us. For all other questions related to this Vendor News Flash, please contact the Vendor Outreach Branch at WICVendorRelations@hhsc.state.tx.us or 800-252-9629.