



August 16, 2021

## **Vendor News Flash**

### **Update: Food Flexibilities and Monitoring**

To support our WIC community, Texas WIC is extending the food flexibilities to help ensure access to WIC supplemental foods for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. The food flexibilities will remain in place until 30 days after the end of the nationally declared COVID-19 public health emergency.

Please refer to the March 25, 2020, [Vendor News Flash](#) for a list of allowable COVID-19 flexibilities by food category. Vendors are encouraged to continue proper labeling and should utilize these flexibilities when prescribed food items are unavailable.

Routine monitoring in the stores will resume September 2021. In-store technical assistance, as needed, and on-site evaluations will resume in October 2021. Below is a list of monitoring and in-store activities and the status for each.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date Resumed</b>
LEB Sales Monitoring*	Oct. 2020
In-Store Monitoring, i.e. Compliance Buys	March 2021
Routine Monitoring	Sept. 2021
In-person Technical Assistance**	Oct. 2021
On-site Evaluation	Oct. 2021

\*No sanctions on LEB food categories while COVID-19 food flexibilities are in effect (milk and whole wheat bread).

\*\**Virtual Technical Assistance* currently available as needed and upon request.



The Texas WIC Vendor Management and Operations Unit will monitor and provide updates as necessary. Should you have any questions about monitoring topics, please email the Vendor Outreach Branch at [WICVendorInfo@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:WICVendorInfo@hhs.texas.gov) or call 800-252-9629.