



March 19, 2021

Vendor News Flash

WIC Vendor In-Store Monitoring Resumes

Effective immediately, Texas WIC will resume monitoring of WIC grocery vendors. Monitoring activities in your store might include covert compliance buys or virtual visits using technology.

Texas WIC will continue to suspend **onsite** evaluations for vendor applicants and onsite technical assistance for vendors. To support our vendor community, **virtual** technical assistance will still be available to all vendor outlets as needed or upon request.

Texas WIC resumed Least Expensive Brand (LEB) sales monitoring on October 1, 2020. However, LEB sanctions **will not** be issued for categories with COVID-19 food flexibilities (whole wheat bread and milk), until further notice.

As a reminder, Texas WIC announced in September 2020 current food flexibilities and waivers will remain in place until 30 days after the end of the nationally declared COVID-19 public health emergency. Texas WIC extended the food flexibilities to help ensure access to WIC supplemental foods for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

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 Compliance Oversight Branch at WICmonitoring@hhs.texas.gov or call 800-252-9629.