



MEMORANDUM

Memo #: FY2020-5
Date: March 31, 2020
Subject: Approved Food Substitutions during Shortages Due to COVID-19 Pandemic
To: All Authorized WIC Vendors

The State WIC Office has received approval from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to authorize the substitution of several food products during this time of limited stock at Utah WIC authorized retailers. If the store is out of stock of the normally authorized items, the following substitutions should be allowed for purchase by WIC customers:

- **EGGS**- All sizes and varieties of eggs are authorized. This includes small, medium, large, extra large, jumbo, brown and cage free eggs. The least expensive brand should be sold when the store brand is not available. If packages of one dozen are not available, two half dozen packages can be substituted.
- **WHOLE WHEAT BREAD**- Whole wheat bread in package sizes up to 24 ounces may be substituted for 16 ounce packages. This applies to currently authorized brands of bread.
- **MILK**- Any fat content milk may be substituted for the fat content listed on WIC checks. This includes whole, 2% reduced fat, 1% low-fat, and 0% non-fat/skim. The least expensive brand should be sold when the store brand is not available.
- **YOGURT**- Any fat content yogurt may be substituted for the fat content listed on WIC checks. This applies to currently authorized brands of yogurt.

Please allow WIC customers to purchase these substituted items when your store stock is not adequate to provide the items listed on the customer's check. Please ensure all cashiers are made aware of these approved substitutions. Make any adjustments to your store's UPC database to allow these items to be sold to WIC customers. A sheet is included that may be printed and hung on store shelves in locations where these four products are located. As a reminder, infant formula substitutions are not permitted. Also, please do not enforce product limits that are more restrictive than the quantities listed on the WIC check.

The Utah WIC Program is aware that the price of substituted items may be higher than the original item. The WIC program agrees to pay the higher amount. We have made adjustments with our bank to allow higher prices for these products to be paid in order to avoid unnecessary check rejections.

The substitutions authorized under this memo are temporary and will be rescinded once the situation normalizes in Utah stores. We appreciate your great efforts to serve all your customers during this difficult time. If you have questions, please call the State WIC Office at 1-877-WIC-KIDS (1-877-942-5437).

cc: Local WIC Clinic Vendor Coordinators