

Wisconsin Food Pantry Conference Call Notes, Friday, September 11, 2020

COVID-19 Update:

- As of September 10, 2020, Price County is the only Wisconsin county that has a low case rate (10 reported cases per 100,000 persons). All other counties have moderate to high levels of activity.
- September 10, 2020 brought the highest number of reported cases since the COVID-19 outbreak began; Wisconsin reported 1,547 cases.
- Of the 84,881 cases reported to date, 6,787 were health care workers.
- Cases are spiking upward among people ages 18 to 24; reported cases in all other age groups are on a downward trend. Of persons with reported COVID-19 cases, 25% are age 20-29.
- Approximately 10% of reported cases are active; 88% have recovered. About 1.4% of persons contracting COVID-19 have died.
- Deaths reached 1,193 on September 10, 2020. Deaths remain highest among people over age 70, with ages 80 and older experiencing the highest mortality.

The 2020 Census: The period of time that every person in America has to self-respond to the US Census been reduced by been reduced by 30 days; the original deadline was October 31, 2020; it is now September 30, 2020. If census takers wish to interview pantry users to make sure they have been counted, please cooperate with them as much as possible, including asking households if they'd be willing to talk with census takers on your premises as long as 1) a household is willing to talk with them; and 2) their work does not slow food distribution at food pantries. Participants are protected by law. Title 13 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations states that whether information is gathered from citizens or non-citizens, information gathered by the Census "cannot be used against respondents by any government agency or court." People should feel safe responding to the 10 Census questions.

Food Distribution in the fall and winter: TEFAP is gathering statewide information from food pantries about their concerns for winter service to households and what options they feel they will have for continuing to serve concludes this week. If you've not yet responded, please do it today. There are five questions asking you to describe how you are serving households now, how you plan to serve as the weather changes, and what concerns and challenges you will have. Outdoor service continues for the time being; we will revisit the TEFAP service instruction when we've had a chance to review your input. Our plan was to remain serving outside until September 30, 2020, but the level of COVID-19 activity remains much higher than we'd hoped it would be by this time. Again, it appears likely we will need to continue outdoor, no contact distribution beyond September 30, 2020.

Feeding Wisconsin COVID-19 Pantry Client Food Insecurity Survey: Feeding Wisconsin continues work with a team of UW researchers to better understand food insecurity and unique barriers Wisconsin households are facing during COVID-19. This bilingual (English/Spanish) survey will be conducted in October 2020 as the demand for food pantry services is expected to peak at this time. Flyers will be distributed to Feeding America pantry guests and food bank mobile pantry users; they will direct individuals to an on-line survey. Food pantries will receive these in one of a few ways: they may be in pre-packed food boxes, Feeding Wisconsin or their member food bank may mail them directly to their food pantry, or flyers will be at drop sites for taking when pantries pick up their food. The survey will give FW food banks a better understanding of populations you serve; barriers facing households during the Pandemic; resources households are accessing to address food insecurity; and perceptions of pantry

experiences and services. The survey will also provide an understanding of how household situations may vary around the state and across different client groups.

Discussion: Issues raised on the call

Q: Lorna from Lakeland asked how or when TEFAP pantries would do their annual re-certification of pantry participants (verifying address and number and age range of people in each qualified household). Kitty Kocol shared that we would postpone recertification for the time being until conditions allow you to check that information. Further instruction will follow as conditions change.

Q: Marty from Wautoma shared a strategy for mobile distribution. She suggested talking with local firefighters who, in many cases, have a drive-through facility. She suggested we consider whether we might ask them to host mobile service in inclement weather. She also suggested that county fairgrounds may be another venue for mobile distribution in winter.

Next Call: Friday, September 25, 2020 @ 10AM

Call 1 (267) 930-4000; participant code 904-416-028#

Thanks to Pantry Operators for joining the call, and to Feeding Wisconsin for hosting calls. All pantry operators are welcome to join on the second and fourth Fridays of the month.

Notes by K. Kocol; kitty.kocol@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Questions welcome at dhstefap@dhs.wisconsin.gov