

Wisconsin Pantry Conference Call Notes
Hosted by Feeding Wisconsin and TEFAP
July 10, 2020; 10:00AM

- Pandemic challenges continue; Wisconsin had a record 754 new reported cases yesterday, July 9, 2020. Hospitalizations are up. Since the pandemic began, DHS reports that 809 people have died, with 33,908 confirmed cases since inception. Cases are increasing in Wisconsin counties as well as nationwide.
- Since uncertainty continues, DHS is preparing for the future food distribution outdoors in the cold months, while also developing protocols for easing food pantry participants back indoors at some point. (We are nowhere near that point yet.) Jennifer Putzer from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services is leading this work. You can submit ideas/suggestions/concerns to her at DHSTEFAP@dhs.Wisconsin.gov
- USDA has announced that it will widen the variety of American-grown vegetables and fruit distributed in the Farmer to Family food boxes during the pandemic.
- The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCAP) will be awarding up to \$5M in funds to food pantries and food banks for equipment and needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications for funds are due on July 22, 2020. Information at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/Covid19FoodSecurityInitiative.aspx
- DHS has gone through their systematic/automatic distribution of Pandemic Electronic Benefits (P-EBT) for k-12 students who were already enrolled in free or reduced meals in school through the National School Lunch Program. It is also known that there are some eligible students who have not yet been issued these P-EBT benefit. In some cases families have been issued benefits for only some but not all eligible children. If a household has school-age children who were enrolled in free or reduced priced meals prior to June 5th and have not yet received P-EBT benefits, they will need to complete an on-line application (https://access.wi.gov/s/pebt?language=en_US). The application deadline has been extended to July 31, 2020. For more information, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth-foodshare.htm>
- There is a robust food supply in TEFAP pantries across Wisconsin, with FoodShare increases and food boxes seeming to ease demand. Pantries are encouraged to make generous distributions to make room for the upcoming delivery.
- Two pantries shared their experience with the Farm to Families food boxes. Both reported increased participation from seniors.

The call ended at 10:25am. The next call will be Friday, July 24th at 10AM.