

March 13, 2020

To Friends and Supporters of Jeffco Eats,

RE: Corona Virus Protocol and Practices for next few weeks

We just learned that Jeffco Schools will be closed beginning this afternoon. At this time, it will be for next week and the week of Spring Break. They will advise as they make next steps. As most of our program sites are schools, we have the following program information from the Nutrition Department that would relate to the children having adequate food during this time.

This description of program was received from Jeffco Health Department:

Urgent Updates:

School Meal Sites: Beginning Monday, March 16 JeffCo Public School buildings will be closed for in-person classes. For the entire week, through March 20, all Jeffco Public Schools facilities will be closed to non-employees. JeffCo will transition to a Remote Learning and Work Plan where students will learn from home during next week.

CDE just received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that allows emergency feeding programs through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to provide meals **in a non-congregate setting** during an unanticipated school closure due to the novel coronavirus. This will allow students to take meals away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing. CDE may also approve a distribution approach that includes meals for multiple days on a case by case basis. Please reach out to the CDE School Nutrition Unit to determine eligibility, program application requirements, and distribution methods. Resources can also be found on the emergency feeding website:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutriemergencyfeeding>

Jeffco Schools has not advised what their times and protocols will be. As we are familiar with Summer Food Services, we will wait to hear what their schedule is. We will learn if they would allow us to bring our foods to the school on a day when students could pick it up in addition to their school foods.

We must yet decide if our leadership team will choose to serve and work during this time. As we have a Volunteer Leadership team, it is up to them again to decide their courses of action. We are having people contact us both individuals and corporation as to how they can help. We will be meeting as a Board and Leadership team to find a course of action that fits with the size and programs of who we are.

For your information and consideration:

Take Action: Families First Coronavirus Response Act: The United States House of Representatives is voting tonight on an emergency bill, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201), to help with COVID-19. [Tell your Representative that it is crucial we pass this bill to ensure that schools and community organizations can meet the nutritional needs of their communities during this public health crisis.](#) The bill includes emergency funding and increased benefit amounts for vital food security programs, including SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), WIC (Women, Infants & Children), school meals and food banks and pantries. The bill also allows gives states necessary flexibility to implement these programs. These policy changes will help ensure all of Colorado's communities, including older adults, people with disabilities and children, have access to nutritious food while following the changing recommendations to stop the spread of COVID-19. Furthermore, this bill will put the emergency services we need in place so families impacted by COVID-19 can get healthy. Read Thank you to Hunger Free Colorado for this information!

We have no updates from Food Bank Rockies on any program changes at this time. There operations provide us over 90 percent of foods we distribute. We will update as it is appropriate to keep you posted.

When we would resume packing operations, we will develop procedures to protect our staff and volunteers. Persons attending Friday packing or other packing, or delivery operations will be asked to sign off on a statement of being "not sick and not having had traveled out of the country" etc. This will be added to our documentation on our volunteer sign up sites. We will work with some wider boundaries of physical presence between packers, of frequent hand washing, high alert cleaning procedures, etc. and TBA.

We are in communication with all major food pantry leadership organizations as Hunger Free Colorado Pantry Association, Jeffco Action Center, Jeffco Health Dept, Food Bank Rockies and all our school contacts and Metro West Housing Authority. We shall update you as we have additional pertinent operations information. Thank you for partnering with us to feed hungry children in the face of difficult days.

Sincerely,

Barbara Moore

Jeffco Eats Executive Director