

## May 27, 2020 WIC Webinar Notes

### Attendees:

31 Broadlawns – Kalin Berkland & Kristy Carr  
34 HACAP -Angela Munson, Diana Strahan & Carie Davenport  
35 Hillcrest – Gina Gassman & Cynthia Kaczinski  
37 MATURA – Michelle West, Astra Jennings & Karla Hynes  
38 MICA – Janet & Sierra  
39 Mid Sioux – Cindy Harpenau  
41 NICA0 – Carla Miller  
42 VNA – Sara & Elaine  
43 Operation Threshold – Amanda Akerman & Amanda Kirchhoff  
45 CASEI – Christine O'Brien  
46 AHF -Cindy Meiners  
47 UDMO – Emily Swancutt  
48 West Central – Amanda Blum & Brittany  
49 Siouxland – Jean Sterner  
50 Webster Co. – Tricia Nichols  
51 Johnson Co. – Chuck Dufano  
53 Marion Co. – Julie Miller  
54 CHC – Nicole Johnson & Courtney Connor

**Kimberly** – again as we have before please put in comments your name and agency. Most of the State WIC staff on call as well

- Updates: USDA has extended all waivers through June 30, 2020. FNS has provided guidance from FNS on how to count unemployment compensation through the CARES Act. Income from stimulus checks do not count as income when determining WIC eligibility. Unemployment compensation including unemployment compensation through the CARES Act, should be considered income. Our Regional Office has said an average of the previous 12 months income can be used. Please see the email that went out on this topic for more information.
- I-Smile wanted to send out a quick reminder that I-Smile staff can use limited WIC participation (per policy and an IDPH written agreement between WIC and Oral Health) to call clients to provide care coordination.

### Vendor Updates

**Caryn**- this has nothing to do with COVID, but we will be adding new foods, and more details will be sent out as we gather that information. Some of the benefits of adding the new foods would increase the selection and allow participants to make different choices. They tell us they are not able to find the WIC foods, or that their family wants or likes different things to eat, so this will

allow us to give participants more variety, and hopefully get more to participants to apply for WIC benefits.

The six new foods: (Effective July 1, 2020)

- Canned Beans – regular 4 cans instead of 1 lb dried
- Brand Name peanut butter,
- Buns and rolls in whole grain
- Whole wheat pasta – any shape and brand
- Tube style yogurt
- Chocolate milk 1 gallon per participant, only skim, 1% or whole will be allowed, no soy etc.

**Caryn** - Beginning in June the new codes will begin to be sent over to WIC Direct. Working with JPMA to update app and working on new food flyers, more info in mid-June for more answers.

**Kimberly**- Yesterday afternoon we sent out some guidance documents that you can use to help in your planning for when you start going out to clinics and doing more face-to-face appointments, whenever that time comes. These are considerations for you to follow. Your agency will need to follow your own policies and procedures.

Review of the document **“WIC Local Agency Guidance – Reopening”**

I will open up to questions or concerns or any ideas. Questions, Comments

Q. Angie- After July 1 are we able to do certs at home?

A. Some can still be done remotely, but some can not. See the guidance document on appointments where physical presence can still be waived.

Q. Amanda 43 – looks like pregnant women who hadn't been on WIC before would need to come in to the office

A Kimberly – Physical presence would not be waived for many pregnant women. Per the guidance document, those with disabilities, including pregnant women who are unable to be present due to complications as defined in Federal Regulations may be exempted from the physical presence requirement.

Q. I am confused about the Qualifying circumstances to waive physical presence for infants and children without a disability.

Q. So if a mom comes in with new infant under the age of 8 weeks, they would not need to be present?

A. The infant would not need to be present.

Q. What if we are not able to come back to the office?

A. Kim- any ideas from other local agencies?

Local Agency Comment. Our offices are open in Burlington or Muscatine so they would have to come to these locations, another thing is we are going to have a sanitation station, with mask, and hand sanitizer, height, weight hemoglobin, temperature, then can go see nurse or dietician.

Q. Could we do the rest of the visit over the phone if physical presence is met by completing hemoglobin, heights, and weights in person?

A. This might be a possibility.

Q. Would you waive their signature for benefits?

Local Agency Comment. Client can call when they arrive then we can get their height and weight and proofs etc. then they could leave and we can sanitize before each participant.

Nicole – what if they have the phone visit part done prior to them coming in for the rest.(height, weight, and signature)

Kimberly – That might work.

Q. If we do the Zoom does that count as physical presence?

A. Kimberly – no

Q. Broadlawn – if we don't want them to touch the pin pad, why do we want them to touch the signature pad?

Q. Could we do the e-signature? Or a drop down list?

Comment. Our clinic has been sending the Rights and Responsibilities to participants prior to their visit so they can review it and we don't have to read it while they were there. If there was a drop down they could verbally tell us they have reviewed it.

Kimberly – I will verify for appointments where physical presence can not be waived, but FNS provided guidance that a signature for the Rights and Responsibilities does not need to be a "wet signature". Confirmation is needed that the participant has read and understands the document.

Local Agency Comment. When client enters, we will send them to a room and then staff will go around and get to each one, and disinfect as we go, also may use face shields.

Kimberly – Masks are an allowable cost. I will clarify if other PPE is an allowable cost.

Q. If we can't get any PPE, then what do we do?

Kimberly - Others have the same concerns. Does anyone have anything to share on that?

Local Agency Comment. Just a waiting game.

Q. I will just give some background, we have not been able to get PPE and it is taking 6-7 weeks, so how do we open when we don't have that?

Q. What if we don't have adequate PPE? What direction within the WIC department?

Jill - if you could send us comments saying you are having trouble getting these things we can pass them on to the USDA, and help plead our case.

Nicole – would you say we are continuing to extend the waivers so that agencies can continue to do visits remotely?

Jill – we would also need approval from our Division Director, so keep that in mind.

Kimberly – any other comments to share.

41- Not COVID related, when will Security training be available so my staff can do before returning to the office?

Connie - should be sending out today.

Kimberly – if you have any other questions please ask and as Jill said please keep us updated on if you are able to get the PPE you need and any other concerns so we can pass that information onto USDA.

Nikki – Also, want to add, to please let us know the silver linings, and good things you are seeing and how we are still having a great impact on the clients we are serving, not just the bad things.

Kimberly – we will end call at 12:53 pm