

Dear Agency Partners,

To maximize the safety of staff and volunteers, and to ensure we are able to provide the service you rely on, Feed My People has implemented new protocols.

- **NEW!** The office staff has been split into two teams to minimize exposure. One team works in the office while the other team works from home, then we alternate. Warehouse staff continue to work onsite 5 days a week.
- FMP staff and volunteers are all wearing **masks** while in our building and on official FMP business.
- **NEW!** We are reducing the amount of people in our building
 - We have temporarily suspended pieces of our volunteer program and have greatly limited the number of people in our building.
 - Food donations are being placed in a bin just inside our door or taken directly to the warehouse
 - Agency pick-up goes directly to door 10 and calls to let us know they are here. Our warehouse staff then brings the food out to them.
- We have a sanitizing protocol we continue to follow throughout the building.

We recommend:

- Continue to maintain social distancing (encourage your staff and volunteers to do the same both when working with your program and when they're away)
- Wear a mask, wash your hands and don't touch your face
- Sanitize workspaces and common areas frequently (surfaces, doorknobs, bathrooms, etc.)
- Stay home if you don't feel well.

Digital Campaign

- Feed My People has engaged with a company for targeted digital outreach. Our hope is to reach people who may be in need for the first time and to direct them to resources
- Google search and Google display ads direct people to the FMP Get Help page, which lists our service counties and all our programs.
- To date, there have been 321,000 appearances in people's Google pages and 2,663 people have clicked on the ad!
- If you have questions, please contact Susie@fmpfoodbank.org

September is Hunger Action Month!

- Feeding America recognizes September as Hunger Action Month, a nation-wide campaign to end hunger
- A package of material to help 'celebrate' was sent by email to each agency last week
- **ORANGE** is the color of hunger action – send your pictures of staff or volunteers with oranges or something orange to susie@fmpfoodbank.org

Farmers to Family boxes:

- FMP continues to receive Farmers to Family boxes – we've increased the quantity by 50%.
- You may hand out the entire box to a family or break it down to distribute items separately.

DATCP Grants: Food Security Initiative –

- Feed My applied through Feeding WI and we were awarded about half of what we requested. You should be hearing from one of us soon!
- We are applying for others grants, also, to benefit our partner programs.

FoodShare Update

- NEW!! WI DHS approved additional benefits for July and August! Recipients will receive the maximum amount allowable based on the number of eligible people in their households.
- July benefits are available on cards August 9th and additional August benefits will be available on QUEST cards on August 23rd.
- Current FoodShare outreach is through YOU - our partners - distribution of flyers to your clients
- Nick and Maureen are receiving many referrals from these flyers! Please continue to encourage people to call if they may be eligible.
- If you are in Barron, Washburn, Sawyer, or Rusk Counties, please encourage people to call or text **Maureen Wilson at (715) 496-3121**. If in other counties, contact is **Nick Bursaw at (715) 450-2656**. They are both available to help people apply for benefits and to answer questions.

Backpack and School Programs - Some programs reported on their plans. Overall here are the plans and questions.

- One program is providing bags to the school once per week. The school is coordinating distribution at school and for those attending virtually.
- Another program is packing at school and bags will be inserted into students' backpacks (specifically for the food program). Each backpack is assigned to a student and they are responsible for returning it to school. If you are interested in backpacks, these were purchased from www.backpackusa.com
- A third program is still working with their school to set up program for this year. They are planning to start slow and are also looking into other avenues to distribute food (pop up pantries, through other programs).
- Questions include:
 - How to get food to families who have students attending virtually?
 - What are school food services doing?
 - What are schools able to accommodate?

Winter Weather - How are you planning to modify what you do for winter weather?

- Most reporting are still providing drive through distribution.
- Alternating staff outside will be helpful (to keep them cook or to keep them warm).
- Volunteers working inside help pack and then delivery is made to cars outside.
- Working with older volunteers in poor weather is a challenge.
- Working in some locations is a challenge (steps, no carts, etc.)

We will continue to discuss both the school programs and planning for inclement weather on subsequent calls.

We will host the next call on WEDNESDAY, August 26 at 10:00 am.

Call in Number - (267) 930-4000 Passcode 789-222-531#