

September 2, 2020

Dear Agency Partners,

NO CALL NEXT WEEK.

We'll resume the calls the following week (week of Sept. 14).

If you haven't already, PLEASE respond to the survey regarding these conference calls. Your input is important! Take the survey here: <https://forms.gle/HBYdFF4qM56VrWKB8>

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.

- Office staff is working in teams alternately working in the office and from home. 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.
 - We have reduced the amount of people in our building, suspending parts of our volunteer program and have greatly limited the number of people in our building. This may result in some products taking longer to be available.
 - 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.

September is Hunger Action Month!

- Feeding America recognizes September as Hunger Action Month, a nation-wide campaign to end hunger
- T-shirts are on their way to you.
- **ORANGE** is the color of hunger action – **send your pictures of staff or volunteers with oranges or something orange to susie@fmpfoodbank.org**

OR

- **Text your picture to Nick at 715.450-2656**

FoodShare Updates

- **NEW!!** Because WI declared a public health emergency for September, WI DHS is able to provide FoodShare households with the maximum monthly benefit amount based on the number of eligible people in their households.
- **NEW!!** The Federal Government announced new 2021 monthly income limits for FoodShare eligibility. These new limits go into effect October 1, 2020.
- Nick and Maureen are receiving many referrals from flyers! Please continue to encourage people to call if they may be eligible.
- If you are in Barron, Washburn, Sawyer, Rusk, Pepin, or Price 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.

School Lunch Program Update

- USDA announced an extension to the free summer meal program through December 31, 2020.
- Schools in the Food and Nutrition Service and the Summer Food Service Program will have meals paid for through the end of the year (or until funding runs out).
- This means participating schools may continue to serve meals to all students, allow meals to be served outside the typical group settings and meal times, and allowing parents and guardians to pick up meals for their children.
- Please check with your local school district to see if they are participating.

DATCP Grants: Food Security Initiative

- Feed My People 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.