

WIC Vendor e-Bulletin

April 2021

Welcome to the April 2021 Washington State Department of Health WIC Vendor e-Bulletin. Please share this with all staff involved in WIC. Have staff **READ, INITIAL, and place in WIC Training binder.**

You can find a copy of this document and back issues of e-Bulletins on our DOH WIC website: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC/WICVendors>.

Contact us at WICRetailManagement@doh.wa.gov or 1-800-841-1410 Ext. 2 if you have questions or need assistance.

NEW WIC CONTRACT PERIOD BEGINS - CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

Congratulations on being authorized for a new contract period! The new contract period is from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2023. Some contract requirements and reminders to keep aware of are:

Training Log: Each store is required to keep a WIC training log that is available if asked to review. This log pertains to those that are involved in any WIC interaction. WIC trainings you would log include new staff training, store training, eBulletin read and sign, and State trainings, to name a few.

Interactive State Training: Each store is required to send at least one staff member to a state training given by WIC Vendor Management staff – either in-person, or on-online – during the current contract period. See article above for more information. At least one person in attendance is responsible for training store staff involved with WIC and must be recorded in the WIC Training Log.

Minimum Inventory Requirements (MIR): Each store is required to keep a minimum inventory of specific WIC foods in stock at all times. Not doing so could result in a contract violation. These food categories include:

- Baby Cereal
- Breakfast Cereal
- Eggs
- Infant Formula
- Peanut Butter
- Baby Food - Fruits & Vegetables
- Cheese
- Canned Fish
- Juice
- Whole Grains
- Baby Food – Meats
- Dried/Canned Beans
- Fruits & Vegetables
- Milk

The detailed list of accepted sizes and varieties in each of these categories are found on our website: <https://doh.wa.gov/YouAndYourFamily/WIC/WICVendors/Training>

Produce Mapping: Fresh Fruits and Vegetables with or without a UPC are not included in the WIC Approved Product List. These items must be mapped to an approved Product Lookup Code (PLU) identifying these food items for purchase. A fresh fruit or vegetable which isn't allowed for purchase by WIC customers at your point of sale (POS) system may not be properly mapped in the POS system. Once properly mapped the product can be allowed as a WIC purchase. Notify your store's front-end manager or POS provider to update the produce mapping for these items. We have a list of approved PLUs on our website.

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Monitoring: The Vendor Management Team staff is gearing up to travel again. Federal rules require us to conduct routine store monitor visits for a percentage of all WIC authorized vendors during the contract period. Monitor visits ensure contract requirements are being met and provides us with the opportunity to meet with store staff in person. Monitor visits include an exit conference with the store manager to go over any findings, provide technical assistance, and any training needed. This process is to help you learn and succeed as a WIC approved vendor.

Supplies: We are happy to send you any supplies needed. Available supplies are found on our website. These include: WIC shelf tags, WIC window clings, shopping guides (12 languages available), and other tools (Vendor Training Guide, Training Logs) and resources (MIR, Annual Training Requirements).

WIC SHOPPING GUIDE UPDATE

A process has been underway to update the WIC Shopping Guide, which hasn't been produced since 2017. Due to some changes which required additional approvals from the USDA, printing of the new guides has been delayed until further notice.

Please direct WIC participants to use the WIC Shopper App on their mobile phones to help them identify all approved WIC foods, whenever possible. If you're unaware of this app, it can scan UPC codes to determine if that food is WIC approved or not. A reference sheet on how to download and use the app can be found on our website or we would be happy to email it to you. The WIC Shopper App is free and available for anyone to download on their mobile phone. Contact us if you have questions.

WIC FOODS – CATEGORY SIZE

Recent eWIC system changes have been made to clarify the type and sizes of certain products allowed for purchase. The table below shows the changes made to the yogurt and infant formula food categories. These changes have resulted in improvements to how benefits are shown on the participant's beginning balance (receipts) or system generated shopping list.

This information is being shared for your awareness and to help with reading WIC receipts when participant questions arise.

Food Category	Old Subcategory Name	New Subcategory Name
Yogurt	Yogurt - All WIC	Yogurt All WIC – Low Fat or Nonfat Only
Yogurt	Yogurt – Whole Milk	Yogurt – Whole Milk Only

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Infant Formula	Similac Total Comfort Powder 12oz	Similac Total Comfort Powder 12 or 12.6oz
Infant Formula	Similac Spit Up Powder 12oz	Similac Spit Up Powder 12 or 12.5oz
Infant Formula	Similac Sensitive Powder 12oz	Similac Sensitive Powder 12 or 12.5oz

2021 INTERACTIVE ON-LINE TRAINING SCHEDULE

Each Authorized WIC Vendor must have at least one representative attend an Interactive WIC training once per contract period. The current contract period begins on April 1, 2021 and ends September 30, 2023.

You're in luck! There is plenty of time to meet the interactive training requirements for this contract period. To make it easier to meet these requirements, we are offering monthly online interactive trainings throughout 2021. Visit the WIC Vendor Training page to register for one of the training dates listed below.

[WIC Vendor Training Information :: Washington State Department of Health](#)

or at: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC/WICVendors/Training>

Date	Time
Wednesday April 14, 2021	2:00pm-3:30pm
Wednesday May 12, 2021	9:00am-10:30am
Wednesday June 16, 2021	2:00pm-3:30pm
Wednesday July 14, 2021	9:00am-10:30am
Wednesday August 11, 2021	2:00pm-3:30pm
Wednesday September 22, 2021	9:00am-10:30am
Wednesday October 13, 2021	2:00pm-3:30pm
Wednesday November 10, 2021	9:00am-10:30am
Wednesday December 8, 2021	2:00pm- 3:30pm

Everyone is welcome to attend. Whether you're a new employee or need a refresher, these trainings will cover all aspects of being a WIC authorized vendor.

If you have any questions about these trainings, please contact us at WICRetailManagement@doh.wa.gov. If you would like to register but don't have access to a computer, please call us at 1-800-841-1410, ext. 2. We will be happy to register you.

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In-person trainings have not been scheduled at this time due to WA gathering size restrictions. Once larger in-person gatherings are allowed, we will post these training dates and locations on the WIC vendor training page at: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC/WICVendors/Training>.

MILK SUPPLY IMPACTED-PLASTIC CONTAINERS

You may have experienced a recent supply chain issue affecting a number of cow's milk brands. Recent winter storms in the southern United States have impacted the production of plastic milk containers resulting in disruptions to the supply of cow's milk available in certain brands and container sizes. Brands such as Darigold, Food Club, Rosauers, and Great Value have experienced shortages of one gallon, 1% fat milk as well as the half-gallon plastic containers of all types of milk fat (fat free, 1%, 2%, and whole). It is unclear how long this supply issue will last.

For questions or concerns, please contact the WIC foods team at wawicfoods@doh.wa.gov.

NTE AMOUNTS - EXPLAINED

WIC vendors are reimbursed for the purchase price of foods purchased at their stores. Each WIC food item has a maximum dollar amount the program will reimburse the store when purchased. This amount is called the Not to Exceed Amount or (NTE). A WIC food item's NTE amount is determined by applying a set of rules, or calculations established by the program. These rules are defined based on a set of criteria, or variables, used to compare the food item purchased with the same item across the same peer groups of stores.

For example, the NTE for a dozen eggs is determined by looking at the average (mean) purchase price of 300 units of eggs sold by stores in the same peer group over a sixty-day period. The mean purchase price is then increased by 45% to determine the NTE for this food category.

The NTE for a WIC food items can change frequently or infrequently depending on each of the criteria within the rule being met. This allows the NTE to adjust automatically based on market forces, or purchase history, of WIC foods.

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CVB Increase

The recent passing of the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion COVID-relief packages, included \$880 million in funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), including \$490 million to enhance WIC benefits for four months and \$390 million in outreach, innovation, and program modernization funding. These short-term benefit enhancements include a significant monthly increase in Cash Value Benefits (CVB) used to purchase fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables. All participants eligible for CVB's will be given a total of \$35 CVB each month from June 2021 through September 2021.

This is a significant benefit increase for all eligible participants and will help to promote healthy food choices. We are asking our WIC vendors to help promote this additional benefit.

CONTACT US

Please contact us if you need assistance or have any questions. We enjoy hearing from you.

Email: WICRetailManagement@doh.wa.gov

Phone: 1-800-841-1410 Ext. 2

Website: <https://doh.wa.gov/YouAndYourFamily/WIC/WICVendors>

Need reports, technical assistance or have a question?

Call us or email us at 1-800-841-1410 or WICRetailManagement@doh.wa.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. **Washington State WIC Nutrition Program does not discriminate.** For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711).



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