

NUTRITION CORNER

New WIC Food Package Update: Time for a Change

Oh Baby! Have we got a food package for you!

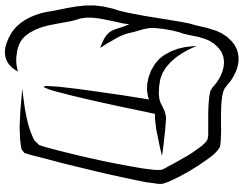


Jarred baby foods will be one of the new additions to the WIC Food Package in October 2009 for infants age 6 to 12 months. There are 2 different food packages available for infants in this age group based on if the infant is breastfed or formula fed. For breastfed infants, the food package is a sweet deal. In addition to receiving all the health and nutritional benefits of breastmilk, breastfed infants will receive sixty-four, 4-ounce jars of fruits and vegetables, and thirty-one, 2.5-ounce jars of baby food meats each month. Formula fed infants will receive thirty-two, 4-ounce jars of fruits and vegetables each month. All infants will continue to receive infant cereal.

For the New Hampshire WIC Program this means:

- The allowed fruits and vegetables will include all single fruits and vegetables, and some mixes of fruits. Dinners, desserts or custards are not allowed. Mixed vegetables are most often in “dinners” and would not be allowed. Organic will not be allowed.
- The New Hampshire WIC Program will allow only Stage 2 jarred infant fruits, vegetables and meats. One company refers to their jarred infant meats as Stage1 and we will address this if needed.
- The Northeast Region WIC Programs have worked together to develop a sole source “Request for Proposals” (RFP) for infant jarred foods and infant cereal provided through the WIC Program. We will share details in the future as appropriate.

Got Bread?????



The WIC Program has sent out a survey to ask vendors about brands of whole grain and whole wheat bread available in a 16-ounce package. We are aware of 4 varieties of Pepperidge Farm bread that meet the WIC criteria, but are looking for other brands of whole grain bread in 1 pound loaves, including store brand. The primary ingredient in the bread must be whole grain per WIC nutrition standards. We are open to discussing options available to stores such as including store baked whole grain breads packaged as 16-ounce loaves or packaging store brand breads in a 16-ounce package. (Store baked whole grain breads must be labeled and meet the federal definition of whole grain bread.) If you did not receive a bread survey and would like to provide comments, or have questions about the store bread options, email lrichards@dhhs.state.nh.us.

A Sticky “WIC-ETTE”

The WIC claims processing unit has seen an increase in invoices that have incomplete information. If the payment is being made to an address different than the store, make sure that address is indicated on the invoice. To avoid having your payment delayed, make sure the invoice has all the information completed.

Please remember that a calculator/adding machine tape must come with each invoice and must show the purchase amount for each voucher and a grand total at the bottom.

Invoices are limited to a maximum of \$4,000. Stores must submit a second invoice for any amount over \$4,000.

Thank You!!!

A big thank you to Shaw's Supermarkets, Market Basket, Hannaford and Price Chopper for their generous donations toward a new WIC project called "Healthy Habits for Life."

The National WIC Association worked with Sesame Street Workshop to develop a nutrition education and physical activity project for WIC children. The project includes healthy activities for families, recipe cards, and education about starting good habits early. This partnership with Sesame Street is a national one with many State WIC agencies planning to use these materials in 2009 with the launch of the new WIC food packages.

If your store would like to learn more about sponsoring the project, contact Lisa Richards, Nutrition Services Manager, lrichards@dhhs.state.nh.us

New WIC Food Package Update: Here Come Fruits and Vegetables!

This edition of the Register Contest will challenge your knowledge and see how well you retained the facts from our Nutrition Corner article in the October 2008 edition.

Return a **completed** form to Laurie Desmarais at the address listed on the entry form.

1. True or False (circle your answer)

Participants will be allowed to purchase fruits & vegetables at grocery stores effective October 2009.

2. True or False (circle your answer)

There will be no restrictions on what type of fruits & vegetables a participant can purchase.

3. True or False (circle your answer)

Salad bars and party trays are allowed as long as no salad dressing or dip is included.

Name: _____ Store: _____

Store Address: _____

Mail to: Nutrition and Health Promotion Section, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301-6504 or fax to: Laurie Desmarais, Vendor Manager at (603) 271-4779. Good luck!

The first five entries that are received and have **all** the correct answers will receive a prize. This contest is only open to store personnel who work for stores that are currently participating with the NH WIC Program. The winner will be announced in the next edition of the WIC Register. If several people from one store would like to enter the contest you may make additional copies of the contest and submit them separately.

Changes to Nestle Formulas

The WIC Program is notified when manufacturers are changing their products. This can be sizes, graphics, and wording on their labels or the discontinuation of a particular product. When this happens we will notify all vendors what has changed and the effective date.

Recently we were notified by Nestle that they are changing the names the Nestle infant formulas effective March 2009. These are the contract formulas many New Hampshire WIC families purchase with their WIC vouchers.

**Good Start Supreme DHA and ARA is changing to
Good Start Gentle Plus (orange label)**

**Good Start Supreme Soy DHA and ARA is changing to
Good Start Soy Plus (blue label)**

This name change is for the powdered, concentrate, and ready-to-feed formulas.

Starting March 2, 2009, New Hampshire WIC vouchers will have the new formula names listed above. Some stores may have supplies of both the old and new formulas for several months. During this transition time, WIC families should be allowed to choose either the old or new label of Good Start formula indicated on their voucher. Be sure to remind your cashiers to check the quantities listed on their vouchers as well.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Desmarais or Pam Welcome at 800-852-3310 Ext. 4562.

The New Hampshire WIC Register is published by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, Nutrition and Health Promotion Section. Please forward all questions and comments to the address below:

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NH Department of Health and Human Services
Nutrition and Health Promotion Section
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301-6504
Attn: Laurie Desmarais, Editor

Phone: 603-271- 4546
Toll-Free: 1-800-852-3310 ext. 4546

WIC FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)

This section is a summary of questions that we receive at the State WIC office. If you have any questions related to your WIC business, we encourage you to call Laurie Desmarais, Vendor Manager, at (800) 852-3310 Ext. 4935.

Q: Does our store have to notify the WIC Program when our prices change?

A: Yes, vouchers are paid based on the pricing information received by the store. If a vendor doesn't notify the WIC Program of a price change they will be paid according to the price last reported.

Q: Is creamy peanut butter WIC approved?

A: Yes, peanut butter that is crunchy, smooth or creamy is WIC approved.

Q: What do I do when the store runs out of invoices?

A: You can request more invoices via email, fax, phone or include a note with a bill to request additional invoices be sent to your store.

Q: What is the procedure for dealing with disruptive participants in our store?

A: If you are having difficulty with a participant, please contact the WIC Program with the participant's name or the voucher number along with a description of what happened. We will then work with the Local Agency to educate the participant and prevent further challenges in your store.

