

# SERVING MILK DURING SCHOOL CLOSURES

## Successful Practices Shared from the Field

- If possible, move refrigeration equipment or milk boxes from closed schools to sites that are operating, to allow for additional milk storage.
- Use reusable “fake ice.” This comes in blankets and cubes.
- Two-crate and four-crate barrels with freezer panels can be secured on buses for transporting milk.
- Use dollies, carts and ramps to load heavy coolers and milk crates into buses.
- Use handicap buses equipped with lift gates for easier loading.
- National Guard is helping serve meals in metro areas around the country. Ask if they’re available in your area.
- Schools are reporting freezing or partially freezing milk prior to distribution – see below for more guidance on freezing milk.
- Milk processors have been willing to help by delivering milk to SFSP sites and/or bulk meal deliveries.
- Refrigerated trailer rentals may be an option.
- Consider using bulk milk (1/2 gallons and gallons) for multiple meals served to one student/family – see below for more guidance on bulk milk.

## Freezing Milk

Freezing milk is safe and may help reduce concerns of staying at a safe temperature during transport. We recommend trying this to test how the different containers (cartons or jugs) perform. Here is a link to an article about freezing milk that is on National Dairy Council Website:

<https://www.usdairy.com/news-articles/can-you-freeze-milk>.

## Bulk Milk

USDA issued a Q&A document and question 18 states that program operators “may provide bulk items as long as individual meals are easily identifiable as a reimbursable meal.” The Q&A further states that program operators “must include the required food components in the proper minimum amounts for each reimbursable meal being claimed.” This means that as long as a minimum of 8 ounces of milk is provided with each meal being supplied, the milk may be in a larger container. See the complete document here:

<https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SP13-2020s-a.pdf>



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For additional support and resources, please contact American Dairy Association North East at [Schools@milk4u.org](mailto:Schools@milk4u.org), or visit our special informational site at [www.americandairy.email/covid19](http://www.americandairy.email/covid19). Thank you for your invaluable efforts on behalf of our children!