

# Retailer Advisory Meeting Minutes

**Date: July 23, 2020**

**Time: 2:00 PM**

**Location: Conference call**

Attendees: Paula Garrett, Megan Nason, Alex Acharya, Bob Altermatt, Brian Tun, Jennifer Trower, Ephraim Ewing, and Amy Romero. Stores represented on the call: Ahold, Americana, DECA, Food City, Food Country, Food Lion, Harris Teeter, Hometown IGA, Ingles, JD Supermarket, Lowes, Price Less Foods, Publix, Reid's, Superfresh, Weis, and Wegmans. Virginia Food Industry and ADK was also on the call.

Facilitator: Amy Romero

Recorder: Bob Altermatt

- The meeting began at 2:00pm
- **Paula Garrett** (WIC Director) provided an update for the WIC division
  - Reminder about waivers: Added eggs such as medium & XL, jumbo, and brown eggs. Milk is allowed in flexible varieties for now (If a participant is prescribed whole milk, retailers may sell regular, lactose free whole milk, or UHT whole milk. If a participant is prescribed low-fat/fat free milk, retailers may sell skim, 1%, 2%, regular lactose free or UHT milk)
  - Compliance & monitoring visits are paused with a waiver from USDA
  - Participant app is 3-6 months out. This will allow participants to see their personal shopping list with words and pictures, they can scan a UPC to see if it's approved, and can find the retailer nearest them.
  - USDA announced a grant opportunity with a research university to look into investigating online ordering for WIC. This will not be a quick turnaround, but we're excited at the prospect.
- **Megan Nason** (Program Manager) provided an update for the program
  - Food waivers through 9/30/20. Amy reminded attendees that eggs would need to be submitted to us for approval.
  - Egg and milk waiver details are attached to the end of these minutes.
  - If you need to submit any egg UPCs to be considered under the waiver, please use this UPC request form: [UPC request form](#)
- **Alex Acharya** (WIC Vendor Compliance Manager) provided an update for the vendor team
  - 2020 Reauthorization: All contracts expire this year.
  - All retailers will need to complete interactive training and sign new retailer agreements. We have hosted webinars for independent retailers. All other stores are provided a video that will need to be used for training. Since interactive training is required, all retailers must conduct training by showing this video WHILE BEING LIVE on a webinar or in person in order to answer questions. The person on the webinar to count as "interactive" must be either a certified trainer or a WIC staff member. The Video is here: [2020 Reauthorization training video](#).
  - If you have not received a retailer agreement to sign, email: [alex.acharya@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:alex.acharya@vdh.virginia.gov)
  - Reminder to all that only one cashier handbook is required per store.
- **Jarene Fleming** (State Breastfeeding Coordinator) provided an update on a new Virginia law, *Pregnant Worker Fairness Act*

- New law that went into effect July 1 affects all employers with five or more employees. This includes provisions to ensure breastfeeding mothers are provided with a **private location other than a bathroom** to express breastmilk. Lactating women must also be allowed longer and more frequent breaks, though they are not required to be paid.
- Details are in a webinar that was recorded, the link will be posted 7/29/20: <http://bit.ly/VALactationLaw>
  - Webinar objectives for employers highlights: what constitutes a workplace lactation accommodation & understand new employer obligations.
- **Miscellaneous**, open to all
  - Email us at [WIC\\_retailer@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:WIC_retailer@vdh.virginia.gov) if you have any questions you didn't get to ask – or if you need to be added to our email list to receive information about the RAM calls in the future.
  - Remember the retailer webpage is here: [www.virginiawicretailers.com](http://www.virginiawicretailers.com)
- **The Date for the Next Meeting is October 22, 2020 at 2:00pm**

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### Temporary Eggs Waiver Due to COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, eggs have been reported to be one of the most difficult to locate at the grocery stores. USDA has given us the green light to allow additional sizes of eggs at this time. We will allow one dozen medium, large, extra-large and jumbo sizes of white or brown, regular or organic eggs to be temporarily added until further notice.

#### BUY:

- Medium, Large, Extra-Large or Jumbo size eggs
- White or Brown
- Regular or Organic

#### DON'T BUY:

- Cage Free
- Free Range
- Fat/Cholesterol Altering Eggs (Eggland's Best)

Complete an [UPC Request Form](#) and submit your new item to [brian.tun@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:brian.tun@vdh.virginia.gov) along with a product image attached.

### Temporary Milk Waiver Due to COVID-19

The Virginia WIC Program has learned that a significant number of WIC retailers are having trouble in maintaining certain inventory of WIC eligible milk products for participants due to the COVID-19 crisis. As a result, USDA has approved the temporary waiver for milk products.

If the prescribed milk product is unavailable for purchase, WIC participants can buy other milk products as shown below:

- If WIC participants are prescribed Whole Milk, retailers are allowed to sell regular, lactose-free whole milk or UHT whole

- If WIC participants are prescribed Low-Fat/Fat-Free Milk, retailers are allowed to sell skim (fat free), 1%, 2% regular, lactose-free or UHT milk.

This temporary milk waiver is effective March 31, 2020 until further notice. Store cashiers should scan all milk items first to see if they can go through instead of telling a WIC participant that they are not WIC approved.

No additional UPC submissions are required at this time. Should you have any questions, please email: [brian.tun@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:brian.tun@vdh.virginia.gov).