



F - WCED Guideline: School Feeding

Branch: Institution Development and Coordination	F - WCED Guideline: School Feeding	
F- WCED Guideline	Date: 20 May 2020	To be reviewed as and when necessary

Approved by the Head of Department:



BK Schreuder
Date: 2020-05-20

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) normally feeds approximately 485 000 learners daily when schools are open through the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP).
- 1.2. The WCED has decided to continue feeding learners during the lockdown period and until schools reopen fully.

2. Requirements

- 2.1. Due to Covid-19 and the importance of safety and to limit the spread of the virus, we rely on the best cooperation from principals, staff, food volunteers and the communities at large. Consequently, everyone will have to assist with compliance with the most basic safety and security measures we can provide going forward, given the extraordinary circumstances.
- 2.2. For an interim period, schools will feed those learners that are already attending classes, as well as those learners that have not yet returned to school but live in the community (as had been the practice during lockdown). The protocol for school feeding issued earlier still contain relevant safety information to be followed. (*SOP No: 1/2020 – Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for principals to assist with the feeding of vulnerable learners' dependent on the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) during the lockdown period*).
- 2.3. Learners that have not yet returned to school should be fed separately from the learners that are already attending classes.
- 2.4. Schools should schedule feeding times to stagger the various groups that need to be fed to avoid crowding and maintain social distancing.
- 2.5. Learners that come to school daily to be fed must not mingle with learners that are already attending classes.
- 2.6. No one other than learners may be fed under the school feeding scheme. Members of the community who want to access food, pose a risk. The help of the governing body/community leaders may help in this regard.

3. Responsibilities of the principal/school

- 3.1. Learners attending school.
 - 3.1.1. Ensure that the venues/classrooms to be used meet the required safety standards.
 - 3.1.2. Sanitise and safeguard the areas/surfaces to be used.
 - 3.1.3. Inform parents/learners about meal arrangements and the importance to maintain social distancing.
 - 3.1.4. Prevent long queues and gatherings. Stagger the feeding if possible.

- 3.2. Learners not attending school.
 - 3.2.1. Learners who arrive from outside for food must be screened.
 - 3.2.2. Learners must bring containers to receive food.
 - 3.2.3. Food must be handed out to learners in a safe area.
 - 3.2.4. Ensure that schools' NSNP beneficiaries are fed first.
 - 3.2.5. Learners from other schools staying in the area must be fed if they report for feeding and if the school has sufficient food. These additional numbers must be reported to the district office.
 - 3.2.6. As soon as they have received their food, they must leave the school in an orderly fashion and be encouraged to go straight home.
 - 3.2.7. The protocol for school feeding issued during lockdown is still applicable.
 - 3.2.8. Attendance registers must be kept of learners accessing the schemes.
 - 3.2.9. Only learners attending the school day are allowed to eat at the school. Other learners not yet resuming classroom teaching and learning should not eat at school.
 - 3.2.10. Brief all Voluntary Food Handlers on the COVID-19 safety regulations.

4. Safety measures during feeding session (Schools with NSNP)

- 4.1. Volunteer Food Handlers must wash their hands thoroughly before preparing food: face masks, disposable gloves and disposable plastic aprons must be worn to prevent droplet transmission.
- 4.2. Those preparing and/or serving food must not talk, shout or laugh over exposed food unless they wear a face mask.
- 4.3. All surfaces must be cleaned daily (before and after meals) with a disinfectant cleaner (recommend sodium hypochlorite 0.5% (biocide sachets) **or** bleach mixture of 250ml of bleach to 5 litres of water).
- 4.4. Clean the kitchen/area and all utensils where food is prepared before starting with preparing food.
- 4.5. Practice social distancing. Learners to queue with spaces of 1.5m in between.
- 4.6. Arrange for adequate supervision at the gates and allow a manageable number of learners into the school at a time. Parents/governing bodies can be requested to help.
- 4.7. Staff must wash their hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water.
- 4.8. Staff to practice safety measures regarding coughing/sneezing.
- 4.9. Buckets with water and soap can be placed at the entrance gates, where learners can be asked to wash their hands. Schools may also purchase hand sanitiser for this purpose.
- 4.10. Once served, learners must be directed to the exit points.

- 4.11. Stagger feeding times so that learners attending school are fed separately. Those learners in grades that have not been phased in must not mingle with other learners and must leave the premises.
- 4.12. Clean all utensils and pots at the end of the feeding session. Thoroughly clean the feeding place/kitchen with bleach.
- 4.13. All work surfaces must be sterilised with a high bleach content cleaner at the end of each feeding session.