Our response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Due to the evolving circumstances of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), we would like to update our community on the precautionary and robust steps that we are taking to keep our county safe and fed during these unprecedented times. We would like to assure you that our number one priority is to provide food access to our community. We understand that due to the nature of this pandemic and the position that many families and individuals will find themselves in during these challenging times, many people will need support from us – including a large number of people who have never received services from a food bank before.

The FAQs below are designed to help answer questions about how we work. To our existing clients – we will endeavor to operate as closely to “business as usual” as CDC guidelines allow. To those who may be seeking out services for the first time – we encourage you to utilize all that we have to offer and also find comfort in the fact that we are solution focused. SFBFS was founded to help those in need and we are undeterred in our commitment to our community. We are all-in.

In addition to the FAQs below, we have compiled a list of resources at the bottom of this page that we encourage you to follow. As an organization, we are carefully monitoring developments and encourage you to do the same. Increased hygiene measures and steps to minimize the impact of the virus on clients, volunteers and staff are of utmost priority to us. You can find links to resources at the bottom of this page.

FAQs

How we can help YOU:

If you are a family or individual in need of food, click here. If you plan on visiting one of our Partner Agencies, make sure you call ahead as agencies are subject to modified hours. If you are a Partner Agency or another organization in need of assistance, call (916) 925 – 3240.
What YOU can do to help:

DONATE: This is a critical time and we are seeing increased cost in our operations. We need your help now, more than ever. For every $1 you donate, you can provide 5 meals for a family.

VOLUNTEER: If you are between 10 – 64 years old and don’t have underlying medical conditions, we’d love to have you volunteer. Click here to access volunteer opportunities.

I live in Sacramento County and there is a shelter in place. Is SFBFS still going to give out food?

Yes. Emergency food distribution is considered an essential business per the guidance of CA State Health & Emergency Officials. Therefore, we are working to make sure we get our partner agencies the food they need, while we also continue to run our own distribution programs.

I live in Sacramento County and there is a shelter in place. Can I still volunteer?

Yes. Emergency food distribution is considered an essential business per the guidance of CA State Health & Emergency Officials. Therefore, if you are between 10 – 64 years of age and have no underlying medical conditions, we would love for you to volunteer.

Food Bank Services - FOOD ACCESS

In response to the increased demand that COVID-19 has created for food access within Sacramento County, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services is hosting two new temporary drive-through distributions. In order to follow social distancing guidelines, these food distributions will be “touchless.” Attendees will not leave their cars. Food will be placed directly in the trunk of vehicles.

Encina High School (1400 Bell Street, Sacramento, CA 95825)

- When: Tuesdays
- Frequency: Weekly, until further notice
- Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (or until all food is gone)
- Please do not line up before 1:45 p.m.
- Distribution style: One-way drive through distribution through parking lot entrance closest to Greer Elementary (cars should approach heading West on Hurley Way and turning right on Bell Street). In order to follow social distancing guidelines, the food distribution will be “touchless.” Attendees will not leave their cars. Food will be placed directly into the trunk of vehicle.

Christian Brothers High School (4315 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95820) (USDA/TEFAP)

- When: Thursdays
- Frequency: Weekly, until further notice
- Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (or until all food is gone)
- Please do not line up before 1:45 p.m.
- Distribution style: One-way drive through distribution. Enter distribution via parking lot entrance closest to 20th Avenue (cars should approach heading North on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and should turn right into the school parking lot).
- In order to follow social distancing guidelines, the food distribution will be “touchless.” Attendees will not leave their cars. Food will be placed directly into the trunk of vehicle.

Community members unable to attend may designate someone to pick up food on their behalf.

· Community members unable to attend a distribution in person, can fill out an Alternative Pick Up Form that they will send with the individual picking up on their behalf.

· Individuals picking up on behalf of another will be able to pick up for a maximum of two households, including themselves.
Attendees must meet the following income guidelines

The food distribution is open only to households that meet the following income guidelines. This will be a “self-certifying” food distribution, meaning that families will not need to show proof of income or provide I.D. to receive food assistance. Families simply need to verbally verify that they meet the income guidelines.

Please continue to check our website (https://www.sacramentofoodbank.org/find-food) for the most up-to-date information about where to access food in Sacramento County.

Partner Agencies:

There are many Partner Agencies in our network. We continue to monitor the status of their operating hours, however we encourage you to contact them prior to visiting for services. Click here to find a distribution point in your neighborhood.

TEFAP: How can I access food if I am unable to attend a food distribution?

Community members can designate someone to pick up food for them at any of our TEFAP distributions. Please use our Food Finder to find the distribution locations closest to you. For TEFAP distribution (listed on the Food Finder as USDA), clients will need to fill out an Alternative Pick Up Form that they will send with the individual picking up on their behalf.

I am currently on CalFresh, will my benefits change?

No.

I currently receive CSFP, will my deliveries change?
For the health of our clients we have suspended all public Food for Seniors distributions until further notice. During this transition, our Food for Seniors program will only be serving clients who have utilized the program between January 1, 2020 and March 27, 2020. These clients will be contacted directly with information on how they will receive their Food for Seniors box in April. Please continue to check this webpage for updates about future Food for Seniors distributions. Please continue to check the COVID-19 FAQ on our website for ongoing updates about Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services’ response to COVID-19.

Am I allowed to get free food? I have a job, but I’m having a hard time making ends meet.

Yes. Click [here](#) for food access.

I have a student who is no longer in school, can I get food for my children?

Yes. Click [here](#) for food access.

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**Family Services - PROGRAMS**

**ESL:** Temporarily closed until further notice.

**GED:** Temporarily closed until further notice.

**Technology Lab, Computer Classes, Job Development Appointments:** Temporarily closed until further notice.

**Clothing Program:** Temporarily closed until further notice.

**Donations Receiving:** Temporarily closed until further notice.

**Job Smart Clothing:** Temporarily closed until further notice.

**Parent Education:** Temporarily closed until further notice.

**Playcare:** Temporarily closed until further notice.
**Refugee Resettlement Services:** As needed, limited contact. Cultural orientation classes postponed or changed to an alternative method.

**ILS:** Walk in Wednesdays cancelled. In person appointments managed on a case by case basis. Contact your assigned representative.

**SMUD:** No in person appointments. Please contact SMUD for details at 1 (888) 742 – 7683.

**Community Room:** No reservations at this time. All current reservations are now cancelled.

**Community Involvement/Request for speaking engagements:** Cancelled until further notice.

For additional resources, call 211.

**Center for Disease Control and Prevention**

*Info and Guidance (School, Travel, etc.)*

**World Health Organization**

*Events as they Happen*

FAQs

**SFBFS’ Response to COVID - 19 (Coronavirus) PDF**