

memo

DATE: April 1, 2020
TO: WIC Staff and Coordinators
FROM: The MN Food Delivery Unit/Vendor Unit
SUBJECT: Food Substitutes Allowed In Response to COVID-19: Eggs and 2% Milk – App Message

The MN WIC Program has been given Waiver Authority from the USDA to allow some flexibility with specific food categories. MN WIC already has an expansive APL of allowed foods with major brands, so at this time we have only allowed substitutions for more egg sizes and to allow WIC participants with low-fat milk options to also purchase 2% milk.

Note: ½ gallons are allowed on WIC. The dairy industry is focusing production statewide for more 1% & 2% in gallons; ½ gallons will continue to be available in all milk varieties.

Registered users will receive the following WIC App Messaging by 4/3/2020

Subject Line: Milk & Egg Changes in WIC

Message: WIC now allows Medium, XLarge & Jumbo white eggs in dozen size containers, and 2% milk is temporarily allowed for lowfat milk. Scan each product with your app to make sure it is allowed on your card.

Below is the communication sent to our vendors on 3/31/20 informing them of these allowances.

In response to COVID-19, MN WIC made changes to some WIC food categories to allow more flexibility for WIC customers.

The only action necessary is to download an updated APL. For most stores, this is an automatic process. In addition, if your system requires you to flag new items as WIC, please do so now or these items will not scan as WIC allowed. Do not flag any other new egg products other than those on the list provided below.

Updates are as follow:

- 1. Medium, Extra Large and Jumbo size white chicken eggs (containers of one dozen only) are now WIC allowed. The list of new egg products/UPCs is available at [Egg UPC Update](#)*
 - If you have eggs in your store that you think should be added to the APL please email UPC information to health.mnwicupc@state.mn.us*
 - Please note: MN WIC did NOT add organic, cage free, brown or any other specialty egg type.*
- 2. 2% milk is temporarily available to WIC customers that have “Lowfat/Fat Free Milk” listed on their benefit list. Whole milk is not available to WIC customers unless it is listed in their benefits. **There is nothing you need to do with this change.** We wanted you to know that most WIC customers were previously unable to purchase 2% milk, but now will be able to purchase it.*

3. *We are keeping a close watch on pricing throughout the state and will make adjustments as necessary.*

We thank you for your partnership with Minnesota WIC and thank you for your dedication during this stressful, unprecedented and unpredictable time.

Regards,

Minnesota WIC Program

Food Delivery Unit