

# Formula Substitutions & Food Package Changes

MAY 17, 2023

There are several changes and communications going out in May and June regarding milk, canned fruits and vegetables, and formula.

- **Update:** We coordinated with Mead Johnson and Enfamil large can substitutes will remain on the program an additional month until the end of June 2023.
- **Starting June 1,** 2% milk substitutions no longer allowed and WIC benefits include canned fruits and vegetables.

## Communication Timeline

### Milk Benefit Changes

- **May 16**
  - **My MN WIC App notification** went to participants about ending 2% milk substitutions.  
*Subject: Milk Changes*  
*Notification: You'll need to purchase the milk listed on your benefits starting June 1. You can no longer use your benefits to buy 2% if Skim or 1% milk is on your benefits. Contact your local agency with questions.*
- **May 16 & 25**
  - **Social media posts** will include information about 2% milk no longer allowed with skim/1% milk benefits.

### Canned Fruits & Vegetables

- **May 21**
  - **IVR will be updated** to change the short description for CVB to “WIC allowed fruit/veg”, this removes the WIC allowed fresh and frozen. Information will be HuBERT Hints.
- **Week of May 29 (tentatively)**
  - **The WIC Shopping Guide** will tentatively be available the last week of May to order.
    - Orders will have a 2–5-day shipping timeline
    - Online shopping guide posted & linked into the app will be available early June.
  - **WIC Shelf Labels will be available soon** vendors will be notified when they are ready.
    - Includes new labels for canned fruits and vegetables.

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### June 1

- **An updated APL with canned fruits and vegetables** will be posted. Families can begin shopping for canned options in June.
- **Social media posts** will include information about the addition of canned fruits & vegetables in addition to fresh and frozen throughout June.
- **June 13**
  - **My MN WIC App notification** will go to participants about canned fruits and vegetables allowed with fresh or frozen  
***Subject:** New Canned Foods*  
***Notification:** You can use WIC food benefits to buy canned fruits & veggies! Scan the can using the app to make sure it's allowed. There are some limits (no added sugar, no pouches). Tap to learn more.*

### Formula

- **End of June**
  - Medical formula substitutes and posted list will be removed.
  - Enfamil large can substitutes and posted list will be removed.
  - We will share formula updates on our website, social media channels, and the My MN WIC App.

### Vendor Communication

#### **This message was sent on May 16, 2023:**

Minnesota WIC vendor,

Three important updates are in this communication.

- We have been watching sales data for Enfamil formulas throughout the state and know that there are still areas where Enfamil Gentlease has been difficult to order. Continue to order the quantities needed to meet WIC demand at your store. We have been in contact with Mead Johnson and expect to have more Enfamil Gentlease available for order through your supplier. In the meantime, larger can sizes of Enfamil contract formulas will continue to be allowed as substitutes through June. For a list of all contract formulas and their large can substitutes with UPCs, please visit our website: [Enfamil Contract Size Substitutes \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/vendor/formulasubs1.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/vendor/formulasubs1.pdf)
- **Beginning June 1, canned fruit and vegetables will be WIC allowed again!** Canned items will be available using the CVB along with fresh and frozen. There are federal regulations and Minnesota requirements that determine what canned fruits and vegetables will be WIC

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allowed. Canned fruit with no sugar or artificial sweeteners will be added along with organic and individual cups. Canned vegetables and tomatoes with no oils, vinegar, or brine will be added. Herbs and spices are allowed in canned vegetables. No fruit or vegetable pouches will be allowed.

- The most important tool that participants and stores can use to identify which products are allowed is the My Minnesota WIC app, available to download for free. In June, you will be able to use the Food Finder in the app to scan barcodes to show if a canned fruit or vegetable is WIC allowed. If a product does not ring up as expected and you believe it should be added to the Approved Product List (APL), please visit our website and click on “Submit UPC to Minnesota WIC Program” under the Food Distributors and Manufacturers heading: [WIC Vendors \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/vendor/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/vendor/index.html)
- WIC Shopping Guides and shelf labels are currently being updated. Shopping Guides will be sent to every store when they are available.
  - A waiver that allowed 2% milk for families who had low-fat milk benefits on their WIC cards is ending. Beginning June 1, families with low-fat milk benefits will be able to purchase skim or 1% milk only. Participants are being informed at their WIC appointments and through app notifications of this change. If a participant brings 2% milk to checkout, and they have low-fat milk on their WIC card, WIC will not pay for that milk. If they aren't sure what milk they have on their cards, they can use the Food Finder button in the My Minnesota WIC app to scan the barcode or print a balance inquiry at your store to see which milk is on their WIC cards.

If you have questions, please email [health.wicvendor@state.mn.us](mailto:health.wicvendor@state.mn.us).

The Minnesota WIC Vendor Team

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