

### Important Dates

- **Vendor Teleconference August 2nd at 9:00** Call in number: 1(800)-281-5354 code 259225

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### TRAINING RESOURCES

Alaska WIC has a new PowerPoint Training for vendors on the CD that's enclosed in this mailing. Take the time to train your existing and future staff on the WIC Vendor Program. Be sure to fax completed training certificates to the WIC Vendor Unit.

The PowerPoint CD is the third video we have mailed to vendors in the past year. (We have a few copies of each of the videos available if you still need one.) You may also watch the videos on our website at the following links:

- WIC Vendor Training Video: <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/nutri/wic/Vendors/VendorTraining.htm> (Cashier transaction)
- Accepting Fruit and Vegetable Vouchers Video: <http://vimeo.com/16540265>
- WIC Program Vendor Training (PowerPoint - also included with this mailing)
- [http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/nutri/downloads/Vendors/VendorTraining2011\\_5-13-11.pdf](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/nutri/downloads/Vendors/VendorTraining2011_5-13-11.pdf)

**WIC Vendor Advisory Committee needs representatives:** We are seeking vendors who are interested in serving on the Vendor Advisory Committee. Members provide input on vendor issues and proposed policies, and must be willing to commit to participating in quarterly 60-minute teleconferences. In 2010-2011, the Committee has helped revise the monitoring process and discussed and recommended many of the changes described in this newsletter. We want to hear your voice!

**Warrant Stock Changes:** Beginning on August 15th you will see slight changes to WIC warrants. The changes will reduce program costs by using less toner during printing. If you have any questions or concerns about the new look, call us at (907)465-3100 or email: [WIC@alaska.gov](mailto:WIC@alaska.gov).

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# PROPOSED MINIMUM STOCK CHANGES

Over the past two months, we've had the opportunity to talk with many vendors about the minimum stock requirements during our review of the price sheets you submitted. We heard a number of consistent messages from around the state about the WIC Food List, and we discussed those issues at the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting on June 15 and with the nutritionists here at WIC. Many considerations go into the rules and decisions for WIC foods, but we try to adjust for Alaskan conditions and food industry changes as much as we can. Here are the changes we're considering for the Fall Food List:

**Canned Beans** – We are working with USDA to allow 15 oz and 15.5 oz size cans, as well as 16 oz.

**Fresh Milk** – Reduce the categories for low fat (2%), 1%, and nonfat to a single low fat category. **Allow Ultra-Pasteurized (UP) milk, which has a shelf life of two months, in rural areas.** This may be a better alternative for some rural vendors than the more expensive UHT milk.

**Lactose Free or Reduced Milk**- Reduce the categories for low fat (2%) and nonfat to a single low fat category. Eliminate the quart requirements and increase half gallons for each vendor group.

**Powdered Milk** – We are researching usage of powdered milk and will either consider an exemption or eliminate it from the food list.

**Evaporated Milk:** Currently, vendors are required to stock some evaporated milk in nonfat/skim and whole varieties. The new requirement will be for one-third each nonfat/skim, two percent, and whole evaporated milk. The total number of cans will remain the same for each size of store.

**UHT Milk:** Reduce the categories for low fat (2%) and nonfat to a single low fat category. Increase minimum stock to 36 total, including 24 low fat and 12 whole milk.

**Infant Formula:** We are also researching the usage of the concentrate infant formulas that Group C stores are required to stock, and will lower the number of cans required.

**Infant Meats:** There will be no change. A full prescription for one baby is 77.5 oz. per month.

**Infant Foods (fruits & vegetables):** No change. One baby may be prescribed 256 oz per month. (We are asking Group A stores to stock enough for two infants only.)

**Whole Grain Bread, Buns, and Rolls:** The majority of WIC warrants for bread are written for one pound/16 oz. Vendors must stock twelve 14-16 oz size packages of bread. We will list qualified products over 16 oz size on the Minimum Stock Requirements, but you will only need to provide a count of the 14-16 oz size.

**Tortillas and rice:** This page of the price sheet will be simplified and shortened for efficiency.

A BIG THANKS to all vendors who submitted Spring Minimum Stock Requirement inventories by the deadline of May 31, 2011! We recognize that this program requirement takes valuable staff time and effort. It is really important for us to make sure that the supplemental nutrition prescribed for many of our Alaskan neighbors is available when they're shopping. We appreciate your response to this requirement twice each year.—Sandy and Alice