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Subject: WIC Update November 4 In this issue.... Frozen strawberry recall, Pediasure, USDA Q/A, CPT1A, and more
Date: Friday, November 04, 2016 4:18:33 PM
Attachments: [Pediasure wording test checks November 2016.pdf](#)
[wichealth.org new lesson.msg](#)
[2017 Mini-Grant Application.docx](#)
[2017 Mini-Grant Guidelines.docx](#)
[November WIC Coordinator Conference Notes.docx](#)

Hi Everyone,

Here are pictures of the Kotzebue, North Slope Borough, and the State WIC office Halloween parties. We all hope you had a great Halloween!

Take care,
Kathleen



Success Story from the Esteemed Valdez/Cordova WIC program:

Coordinated a family and Valley based PHN to set up a home visit for the

WIC participant. The family has had difficulty with the local clinic regarding insurance and copays and it has been successful for the family and WIC when the nurse pays a home visit to collect data.

1. Article on the CPT1A arctic variant and testing of infants in Alaska

<https://www.adn.com/arctic/2016/10/29/arctic-gene-that-poses-risks-when-fasting-is-found-in-many-more-infants-now-that-dna-testing-has-begun/>

2. **Frozen Strawberry Recall---** Frozen strawberries from Egypt have been linked to illnesses and hospitalizations across 9 states in the US resulting in a product recall. As this is imported product, it is highly unlikely that USDA Foods are involved. Distribution information is not available at this time; however, FDA has reports that schools in California may have purchased the product through **commercial** channels. USDA FNS continues to work with its partners at HHS FDA and USDA AMS to verify that no USDA Foods are involved.

Background: On 10/30/2016, the International Company for Agricultural Production & Processing (ICAPP) [voluntarily recalled](#) certain lots of its frozen strawberries in response to an [investigation of an outbreak of Hepatitis A](#).

The recalled products were all distributed for sale to and use in food service establishments nationwide -- not for use in food products offered for retail sale to consumers. ICAPP is working closely with all of the U.S. distributors of this product to ensure that this recall is effective. Schools may have purchased affected products through commercial channels from distributors, including Sysco, and are advised to contact their distributors with questions or concerns about potentially affected product.

More information about Hepatitis A can be found at www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/. If you have additional questions, please contact your State Point of Contact.

3. **WIC Monthly teleconference notes attached** (thank you Julie!) I apologize to you all- the intent of the WebEx was to record and host it on the website. I forgot to hit the record button, so this WebEx will not be available for later viewing.

4. **From the Western Region Office's monthly questions and answer's newsletter** sent to WIC directors; here is a question pertaining to Alaska's Military population.

Q1: If a military service members has the Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) provided (listed under Entitlements on the paystub) and then subtracted out (listed as a Deduction on the same paystub), and the BAS code is listed in both sections of the paystub, can staff deduct it from the gross income?

A1: When a service member dines at a mess hall (military dining facility), they have two options of how to pay for their meals: (1) payroll deduction (reflected in the deduction column on the leave and earnings statement (LES)) or (2) cash on hand.

In the situation described, it seems the service member has opted to use payroll deduction, which is why you may see a DSCT/Discount Meal code reflected on the LES. When calculating income for WIC income determination, only gross income is assessed; the deduction column should not be considered. The regulations at 7 CFR 246.7 indicate no exception for excluding the Basic Allowance for Subsistence; the BAS is included in household income.

5. **SPIRIT Utilities New Report “Agency Language Summary”** Use this to identify which non-English languages your agency’s participation includes. The top three non-English languages used across the state are Spanish, Hmong and Somali. A selection of “Other” was actually the third selection across the state. If you have additional languages that are not identified on the SPIRIT list, please let the State know so those can be added to the system. Please send any questions or comments to Dana at dana.kent@alaska.gov or 465-5322.

6. **What to do when SPIRIT goes down** 😞

No one likes it when the system goes down; but we live in Alaska, right? It’s bound to happen. Be prepared!! Report SPIRIT outages to the WIC SPIRIT Helpdesk at wicspirithelpdesk@alaska.gov or call 334-4900. The Help Desk will determine whether the central server is down or if it is a local agency issue.

Train your staff and have available resources such as gestation wheels, paper growth charts, and a risk factor summary sheet or manual in order for staff to do their jobs with the constraints of the system being inoperable.

Regardless of why SPIRIT is not working, WIC process should continue as scheduled with the exception of entering data into SPIRIT, printing FI, and setting up appointments. This may mean some old fashioned ingenuity and manual effort such as assessing growth with hand-plotted growth charts, calculating weeks gestation, manually assessing and assigning RF in order to complete the full nutrition assessment, discussing and documenting which food package to assign and then entering all the information into the system once SPIRIT is operational.

Offer to provide FI to the client by mailing or calling the client to pick them up once printed. (Client preference.) Do your best to accommodate participants while they are on-site and don’t turn them away! 😊

7. **Pediasure:** The wording on the checks has been changed, and an example is attached. Pediasure checks now read “6 packs of 8 oz Pediasure Grow and Gain or Grow and Gain w/ Fiber.” In order to fit the new wording in, we had to drop “any flavor”. Please let participants know that any flavor is allowed, if you issue checks for Pediasure. Send all questions and comments to Jennifer Johnson at jennifer.johnson@alaska.gov.
8. **Wichealth.org added a new lesson:** Please see attached email on the new lesson available on Wichealth.org- “Offer Your Baby the Right Foods as He Grows”. We hope Wichealth.org is a valuable resource for your agency to get nutrition education completed at a time that’s convenient for participants. Please contact Jennifer Johnson at jennifer.johnson@alaska.gov with questions or suggestions

NICE TO KNOW

Mini Grant due November 11-

Grants to increase an agency's capacity to feed hungry Alaskans is available. Grants are up to \$1,000 to help fight hunger in Alaska. See details on the mini-grant attachments. Feel free to forward these on to other community partners in an effort to fight hunger in Alaska.