

**Make sure that meal distribution during school closures happens in a safe, effective and equitable way.**

**Here are some best practices we've seen from different jurisdictions:**

- Start considering **delivery** options as soon as possible. Most jurisdictions will have to start with physical pick up centers, but the sooner jurisdictions can convert to delivery the better to keep people off public transit and crowding in physical locations. Each place will be different, but are there ways to maximize the school buses to do home deliveries? Or are there other ways to bring food to young people's homes?
- Provide as many meals over the longest stretches of time as possible.
  - **At least breakfast and lunch** should be made available.
  - There should be **wide hour ranges** of availability to reduce lines/ crowds and so that young people are most able to get the food.
- Provide **multiple days worth of food** during one pick up. Jurisdictions should package several meals together so young people do not have to be out traveling multiple times a day or even daily when it is critical to stay in. Chicago will package together 3 days worth of breakfasts and lunches to support this goal.
- Put distribution centers in **every neighborhood - especially in low-income communities** which will have the highest need for this service to continue.
  - In communities with the highest need, make sure there are sufficient number of pick up locations to avoid crowds.
  - Young people should be able to pick up from schools that are **closest to their homes** even if that school is not the one they attend. For example, in NYC some high school students travel long distances on the subway to get to their high schools. If schools close, they should be able to pick up from any nearby school.
- Consider what **other public buildings** can be used to make this accessible. Are there libraries, community centers, or other locations that would make the placement of meal distribution centers easiest for young people and their families.
- Allow **one family member to pick up meals for everyone in the household**. There is no reason to make every child show up. Instead, one family member should pick up for everyone as a way to reduce the number of people out of their homes and reduce crowds at pick up centers.