



WIC Flash

News from the Arkansas WIC Program

5800 W. 10th Street, Suite 810, Little Rock, AR 72204

Thursday, July 6, 2017

WIC Staff Updates

Stacie Torrence is the new Administrative Analyst for the Food Delivery /Vendor Section. She can assist with general vendor questions as well as provide vendor supplies, (i.e. vendor stamps, tags, door signs and approved food list). Stacie is also responsible for New Vendor applications as well as vendor file changes and updates: name changes, change of ownership, management changes, contact information updates, etc. Stacie can be reached by phone at 501-661-2171 and by email at Stacie.torrence@arkansas.gov.

WIC Updates and Food List Changes

Addition: Krema brand peanut butter is now an approved food item for the WIC Program and can be tagged.



Update: Only Peanut Butter is allowed. *Peanut Butter spreads are not an approved food item.* An example of some of the Peanut Butter Spreads and Peanut Butters is shown below for your convenience. Peanut Butter Spreads Should **NOT** be tagged.

Infant Fruits and Vegetables Purchases

Effective Monday (June 26th) the WIC Vouchers for the Infant and Exclusively Breastfeeding Participants will no longer include the verbiage {8 2-Packs=16} regarding Infant Fruits/Vegetables Jars and/or 2 packs.

This is being done to help cashiers provide the correct number of Infant Fruits/Vegetables



Jars and/or Plastic 2 packs to the participants.

An example of the infant Fruits and Vegetables check is attached.

In previous WIC Flashes, we expressed that Arkansas WIC allows the purchase of infant fruits and vegetables in 4 oz. glass jars and 8 oz. plastic 2-packs. The participant may buy a combination of glass jars and plastic 2-packs on the same WIC check. Many stores are counting the 2-packs as only one jar, this is incorrect. There has been an increase in underselling of the two packs as well. For example: 22 – 4 oz. jars infant fruits /vegetables; the store is selling 8 – 2 packs instead of 11.

If the WIC check has the following food benefit:

Qty Description


(16) - 4 OZ JARS INFANT FRUITS/VEGETABLES – Then (1 PLASTIC 2-PACK=2 JARS)

- The **maximum** number of plastic 2-packs that can be purchased with this check is **eight (8)**.

One (1) 8 oz. plastic 2-pack = Two (2) 4 oz. glass jars

The best way to explain this check type to your cashiers is to express that if a participant is buying the 2 packs, then they will receive ½ of the quantity listed on the check. If the participant is buying jars, they will receive the full quantity listed on the WIC check.

Please work with your staff to get a clear understanding of these check types. An example of the new verbiage is shown below with both the 16 and 22 jars quantity.


		ARKANSAS WIC PROGRAM	5800 W 10th Suite 810 Little Rock, AR 72204	Act# 804025	FSMC St. Louis Park, MN 55416	75-1248 919	25727377
WIC ID NUMBER	NAME OF PARTICIPANT		FIRST DAY TO USE	LAST DAY TO USE		AMOUNT OF SALE	
00814158	[REDACTED]		7/1/2017	7/31/2017			
QTY	DESCRIPTION						PAYMENT WILL BE DENIED WITHOUT
22	4 OZ JARS INFANT FRUITS/VEGETABLES XXX END OF ORDER XXX						AUTHORIZED WIC VENDOR STAMP

VENDOR MUST DEPOSIT WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM FIRST DAY TO USE DATE

Signature of Participant or Authorized Representative

⑈ 25727377⑈ ⑆091912482⑆ 804025⑈

Rectangular Snip

		ARKANSAS WIC PROGRAM	5800 W 10th Suite 810 Little Rock, AR 72204	Act# 804025	FSMC St. Louis Park, MN 55416	75-1248 919	25727378
WIC ID NUMBER	NAME OF PARTICIPANT		FIRST DAY TO USE	LAST DAY TO USE		AMOUNT OF SALE	
00814158	[REDACTED]		7/1/2017	7/31/2017			
QTY	DESCRIPTION						PAYMENT WILL BE DENIED WITHOUT
3	8-OUNCE BOX (ES) INFANT CEREAL						AUTHORIZED WIC VENDOR STAMP
16	4 OZ JARS INFANT FRUITS/VEGETABLES XXX END OF ORDER XXX						

VENDOR MUST DEPOSIT WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM FIRST DAY TO USE DATE

Signature of Participant or Authorized Representative

⑈ 25727378⑈ ⑆091912482⑆ 804025⑈

Reminders:

Best Practices for Tagging the Appropriate WIC Items

Tagging of Arkansas WIC approved food items is a requirement of the current Arkansas WIC Vendor Participation Agreement & Handbook (p. 11, #36 and p. 27, Section D). Tagging seems to remain a challenge for some vendors. We have developed a one-page best practices and procedures guide that can be copied and shared with store staff that has responsibility for tagging

WIC items. Properly tagging WIC approved items helps WIC participants select the correct foods and leads to a smoother WIC transaction at the register. A copy of this guide has been attached for your convenience.

The Food Delivery/Vendor Section is always available for your educational needs. Educational visits can be scheduled with regional staff (FDL's- Food Delivery Liaison's), or by the State Office Vendor Staff. Cashier and tagging training is available to you and your staff at your convenience and is done by the Food Delivery Liaison's in your region. Please do not hesitate to contact them for vendor assistance and/or to schedule a training.

REGION	FDL	CELL	OFFICE
Northwest	Brenda Davis	479-422-2041	479-444-7700, ext.213
Northwest (Central)	Karen Lee	501-837-7070	501-745-2485
Northeast	Selina Felton	501-319-5457	870-236-7782, ext. 109
Central	Twyana Rhodes	501-786-6111	501-280-4965
Southwest	Catherine Crouch	870-648-9333	870-773-2108
Southeast	Christine Watts	870-589-3797	870-734-1461

Minimum Stock Requirements

There have been continuous minimum stock issues with some vendors. Please make every effort to keep enough inventory for your expected customer flow and to alleviate minimum stock violations. Again, you may **NOT** substitute one formula for another. Vendors will be required to refund the WIC program for any formula checks that were not redeemed with the correct formula.

We expressed minimum stock requirements for formula in a 2015 WIC Flash. The following minimum stock requirements have been in effect since October 1, 2015 for the new Abbott Nutrition formulas:

Similac Advance Stage 1, powdered, 12.4 oz. (BLUE CAN)	30 cans
Similac Soy Isomil, powdered, 12.4 oz. (PINK CAN)	15 cans

We've also noticed several stores throughout the state tagging and selling Similac Sensitive which comes in a (Orange can). Similac Sensitive is **NOT** a WIC Approved formula. If this formula is sold as a WIC item, vendors will be required to refund the WIC program for the entire check if redeemed.

VENDORS MAY NOT SUBSTITUTE ANY FORMULA TYPE OR BRAND FOR ANOTHER. THE PARTICIPANT MUST BE ISSUED EXACTLY WHAT IS PRINTED ON THE WIC CHECK.