

Hello Staff!

We hope you are enjoying the summer! Please use this newsletter to stay up to date on improvements, changes, reminders, and deadlines for the Alaska Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, also known as WIC. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact us using the information at the end of this newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Your WIC Vendor Management Unit

## Produce Mapping

For stores using an integrated cash register system please make sure all produce barcodes/UPCs in your store are “mapped” in your register system.

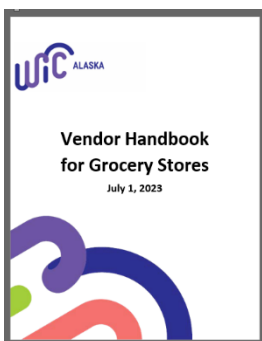
It is important to “map” UPCs to an internationally recognized Product Lookup Code (PLU). If you do not map produce items, then the product is likely going to be denied when WIC shoppers try to buy it with their WIC benefits.

Technical assistance and questions should be directed to your Store Manager or Point of Sale provider.

**It’s summer and fresh produce is abundant.  
Make sure it’s all mapped!**

## NEW! WIC Vendor Manual

We have a new WIC Vendor Manual. There have been significant changes since our most current version which was released in 2016. You are encouraged to read through the entirety of this document to stay aware of WIC expectations, policies, and procedures.



WIC Vendor Manual Found Here:

<https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/wic/vendors/vendor-requirements.aspx>

Please let us know if you’d like a copy emailed, faxed, and/or mailed.

## Milk Waiver Ending

In April 2020, our Alaska WIC program was granted temporary permission to allow WIC participants to **purchase 2% milks with their fat-free and/or 1% milk benefit**. This was due to COVID-19 supply chain disruptions.

**Please be advised that this flexibility will expire on July 31, 2023.**

Your cashiers and staff cannot override this at the cash register. If your shoppers are surprised, please take a moment, and offer to print a balance inquiry for them. This will allow you and your shopper a chance to confirm what type of milk they are eligible to purchase with their WIC benefits.

If your shoppers have complaints, please direct them to their local WIC office that issued their benefits. We have also created an educational flyer that you may use. It is included with this newsletter.



## No Substitutions Allowed

Items provided to shoppers **must** match the barcode, Universal Product Codes (UPCs), or Product Lookup Codes (PLUs) entered/scanned at the cash register. Receiving reimbursement for foods not provided to the WIC shopper is considered fraud of a federal assistance program and will be reported. Additional penalties may include termination, disqualification, civil money penalties, and/or criminal prosecution.

## BOGO

If your store honors or offers a “Buy One Get One free” incentive, the first item should be charged to the WIC benefits and the shopper should get the second item free.



## Minimum Stocking Requirements

In our Fall 2022 newsletter we announced that our office is evaluating our current Minimum Stocking Requirements. These are the amounts of WIC foods that our stores are required to always stock. The current MSRs can be found online at: <https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/wic/vendors/vendor-requirements.aspx>

**It's not too late** to submit your suggested changes. Comments can be submitted via email to [doh.dpa.wic.vendor@alaska.gov](mailto:doh.dpa.wic.vendor@alaska.gov) by **August 1, 2023**.



## APL Additions

We've expanded our list of approved foods to allow new sizes and containers for some products, including:

- 8-ounce cheeses
- Individual serving containers of fruits and vegetables
- Tuna in oil

If you'd like to see if a product is WIC approved, please either find the UPC on our Approved Products List (APL) posted online or download the WICShopper app on your smart device. The WICShopper app is available for free to the public and you do not need to be a WIC participant to use it.



If an item is not on the APL, but you'd like to see it added, you can submit it for review. Please email the nutrition label, package size information, and full UPC. Please keep in mind that individual products still need to be reviewed for approval by our nutritionists.

## Contact Us

**WIC Office Phone:**  
(907) 465-3100

**WIC Office Email:**  
[doh.dpa.wic.vendor@alaska.gov](mailto:doh.dpa.wic.vendor@alaska.gov)

**Erin Fahsholtz**  
Vendor Coordinator  
(907) 500-8634

**Shari Taylor**  
Vendor Management Assistant  
(907) 419-4164

**Sarah Slater**  
Vendor Management Assistant  
(907) 500-2721

**WIC Website:**  
<https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/wic/approved-foods.aspx>

## Vendor Agreement Requirement Reminders

Our team would like to remind all of our authorized WIC grocery stores of a couple important terms in your Vendor Agreement.

**Vendor Agreement 1.5.3 and 1.5.5:** Your WIC Vendor Agreement may be terminated for not receiving reimbursement for WIC foods over a period of 60 days and if the store no longer meets the program's selection and limiting criteria.

**Vendor Agreement 3.2.15:** WIC foods can only be purchased from wholesale or other non-retail suppliers. No WIC foods may be purchased from other retail stores for resale to WIC customers.

**Vendor Agreement 3.2.20:** Inventory records and invoices must be machine dated. No handwritten or hand-dated receipts will be accepted.

