



Freestore Foodbank Partners,

We have had several inquiries after Governor DeWine's declaration on **March 22, 2020** asking how it affects your operations as well as the Freestore's. Freestore Foodbank is an essential business and will stay open to distribute food through our Liberty Street Market and support our partners for pickups and will continue with deliveries. The National Guard has been deployed and will be helping us fulfill agency needs.

Partner agencies are considered essential businesses as well and are looked at as an emergency service, below is a snip of the official declaration for **Ohio** given on Sunday:

5. Leaving the home for essential activities is permitted. For purposes of this order, the individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following Essential Activities:

a. For Health and Safety. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members or persons who are unable or should not leave their home (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional.

b. For necessary supplies and services. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members or persons who are unable or should not leave their home, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, household consumer products, supplies they need to work from home, automobile supplies (including dealers, parts, supplies, repair and maintenance), and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.

d. For certain types of work. To perform work providing essential products and services at Essential Businesses or Operations (which, as defined below, includes Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, and Essential Infrastructure) or to otherwise carry out activities specially permitted in this Order, including Minimum Basic Operations.

The full declaration is attached.

For information on the Governor's declaration in Indiana as of **March 23, 2020** visit:

<https://www.in.gov/gov/3232.htm>

We are encouraging all partners to do the following to keep exposure at a minimum:

1. Move to a traditional pantry method by prepacking bags or boxes.
2. If possible, do drive through services.
3. Make direct deliveries if possible, knock and drop the food by the door.
4. Have all vulnerable staff and volunteers stay home.
5. Tell your workers to stay home if they are not feeling well.
6. Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water, or use hand sanitizer if hand washing is not available.
7. Please create processes that help maintain a six foot person to person separation.

The Freestore Foodbank covers counties in 3 states and each has issued different information regarding government product (TEFAP). Please see below information for each state:

Ohio:

Ohio will now allow self-attestation for identity and income and verbal consent instead of a signature. The foodbanks/pantries will be required to note on the application "COVID-19 2020." At this time, ODJFS is maintaining the 200% FPL income requirement. However, as additional funds are identified the income level will continue to be evaluated. Contact jfossenkemper@freestorefoodbank.org or smata@freestorefoodbank.org for any additional questions.

Kentucky:

Northern Kentucky Area Development District manages the TEFAP and CSFP programs in Northern Kentucky. Please direct any Kentucky TEFAP questions to NKADD.

Indiana:

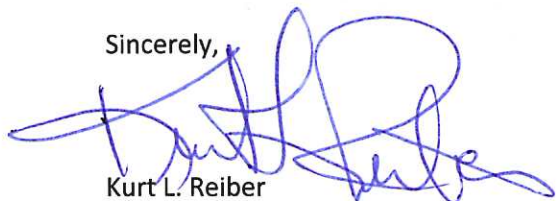
Indiana has temporarily waived the State Plan requirement that prohibits pre-packaging/pre-bagging of TEFAP commodities. The signature requirement has been waived and replaced with temporary procedures. These have been forwarded to your pantry. Contact aheyd@freestorefoodbank.org for any additional questions.

Also available for questions is mtruit@freestorefoodbank.org

We are doing everything we can to assist you at this time and will make sure to keep you in communication as more information comes. You may also visit our website (www.freestorefoodbank.org) and click on the COVID-19 Update to obtain the most up to date and current information concerning the COVID-19 outbreak and our community's response to that outbreak.

Thank you for all that you are doing to support the families who rely on our network for support! Please reach out as your situations change so that we can provide the support that is needed for you, your teams and your neighbors.

Sincerely,



Kurt L. Reiber
President & CEO
513-482-3737 (work)
513-235-8119 (mobile)
kreiber@freestorefoodbank.org (e-mail)