

California WIC Vendor Stakeholder Webinar

December 9, 2020

For Audio, please call: 1-415-655-0001
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Today's Agenda

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions: Michelle Wilkins, Chief, Vendor Operations Section**
- 2) **General Update: Lantrel Stockton, Chief, Vendor Management Branch**
- 3) **Policy Updates: Megan Schlager, Chief, Policy and Food Package Section**
- 4) **Vendor 2020 Annual Training: Michael Ash, Chief, Vendor Training Unit**
- 5) **VWIX Reset Information: Michael Ash, Chief, Vendor Training Unit**
- 6) **Online Shopping Update : Lantrel Stockton, Chief, Vendor Management Branch**
- 7) **Local Vendor Liaisons Update: Jodi Truscott, Program Specialist, Vendor Management Branch**
- 8) **Closing: Lantrel Stockton, Chief, Vendor Management Branch**



General Vendor Update

Lantrel Stockton, Chief
Vendor Management Branch



General Updates

THE CALIFORNIA WIC CARD ROLLOUT IS COMPLETE!

- Over 3,800 WIC authorized vendors throughout California and border states (NV, AZ, OR)
- Averaging 46,000 purchase transactions per day
- All WIC authorized stores are 100% electronic accepting the California WIC Card
- California WIC continues to authorize new stores



Vendor Policy Update

Megan Schlager, Chief
Policy and Planning Branch



USDA/FNS Active Waivers

- Minimum Stocking Requirements (MSR) Waiver
 - Waives federal regulation that requires State agencies to establish MSR.
 - Temporary state regulations waive MSR requirements in WIC Bulletin Regulation (WBR) section 71100.
 - Vendors must use best efforts to maintain a variety of WIC authorized foods on store shelves.

USDA/FNS Active Waivers

- Food Package Substitutions Waiver
 - Waives federal requirements for the Whole Wheat/Whole Grain Bread, Legumes, and Tofu food categories.
 - Temporary state regulations waive requirements in the WIC Authorized Food List (WAFL) regulations in WBR.
 - Temporary WAFL has allowed over 1,400 federally authorized foods to be added to the Authorized Product List (APL).



USDA/FNS Active Waivers

- Vendor Onsite Preauthorization Waiver
 - Waives requirement for CDPH/WIC to conduct an onsite visit prior to or at the time of a vendor's initial authorization.
- Transaction without Presence of Cashier Waiver (Not implemented)
 - Waives requirement that a WIC transaction (includes entering PIN) must occur in the presence of a cashier.
- Onsite Routine Monitoring Waiver
 - Waives requirement for CDPH/WIC to conduct routine monitoring of WIC vendors onsite.





USDA/FNS Active Waivers

- USDA/FNS has approved WIC waivers to be active until 30 days after the end of the nationally declared public health emergency.
- Temporary WAFL and MSR regulations will remain in effect until one of the following events occurs first:
 - 30 days after the end of the nationally declared public health emergency;
 - The termination of the State of Emergency declared by the Governor of California on March 4, 2020;
 - The rescission of Executive Order N-40-20; or
 - The amendment or termination of these temporary changes by the Director of the California Department of Public Health.



USDA/FNS Active Waivers

- All waivers and temporary regulations can be found on the CDPH/WIC website at:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DWICSN/Pages/LawsandRegulations.aspx>
- Go to www.wicworks.ca.gov
- On the left side of the screen, click on “Laws and Regulations”

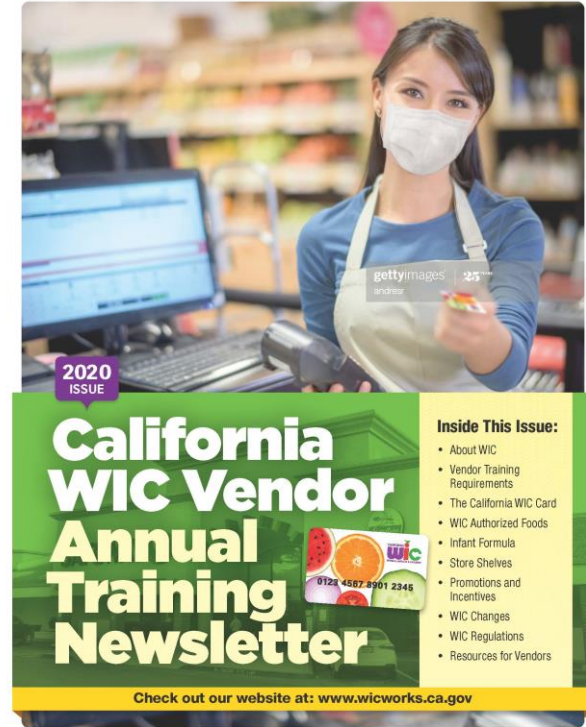
Annual Vendor Training

**Michael Ash, Chief
Vendor Training Unit**



Annual Vendor Training

- The 2020 California WIC Vendor Annual Training Newsletter will be released to vendors by December 31, 2020.
- WIC authorized vendors will have thirty (30) days from the date of notification to log into the VWIX system to review and certify participation in the training.



VWIX Reset Information

**Michael Ash, Chief
Vendor Training Unit**



Vendor WIC Information eXchange

www.vwix.ca.gov

Used by Authorized Vendors for:

- The Mandatory Shelf Price Submission
- The Annual Vendor Training Requirement



CA.GOV Welcome to VWIX
Vendor WIC Information eXchange

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Office of Governor GAVIN NEWSOM

Healthy lifestyles mean healthy families and California WIC plays a key role in encouraging families to be active and eat well.

California WIC partners with our grocer community to make a difference in the lives of our WIC families. Over 3,500 grocery stores in California are authorized to accept WIC and assist WIC participants in providing nutritious meals for their families.

By entering into a Vendor Agreement with the State of California WIC Program, vendors agreed to participate in the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children as well as all terms of the Vendor Agreement. Any vendor who chooses not to accept food instruments must notify the CA WIC Program that he/she is voluntarily withdrawing from participation in the WIC Program. Please send any withdrawal requests by email to WICVENDORINFO@cdph.ca.gov

Thank you for helping to make a difference in the lives of our California WIC families!

CA WIC Home
About WIC
How to become a WIC Vendor
Farmers Market Nutrition Program
Shelf Price Submission - Vendor
User Guide
Annual Vendor Training - Vendor
User Guide
Security Request Form - Access Code

California WIC
WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN
Families grow healthy with WIC

User ID:
Password:
Sign In: [helpful sign in tips](#)
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VWIX User ID and/or Password Recovery

- 1) Reach out to your Vendor Consultant (either directly or through the WIC Vendor helpline: 1-855-942-7867) for your VWIX Access Code.
- 2) The Vendor Consultant will send you a VWIX Access Code Request Form that needs to be completed and signed by the owner of your store. Next, submit the completed form to your Vendor Consultant.
- 3) Your Vendor Consultant will then return the form to you. Included on the form will be your VWIX Access Code (keep this form for your records).
- 4) Once you have your VWIX Access Code, you can call WIC Technical Support at 1-800-224-7472 to reset your User ID and/or password.



WIC Online Shopping Update

Lantrel Stockton, Chief
Vendor Management Branch



WIC Online Shopping Update

- USDA recently awarded a 5-year grant to the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition to support the development of a model framework for online shopping for WIC.
- The grant will also include 5 sub grants for states to conduct online shopping pilots.
- More information will be shared as it becomes available.
- Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition website - www.centerfornutrition.org
- USDA News Release - www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/fns-001820



Local Vendor Liaison (LVL) Update

**Jodi Truscott, Interim LVL Coordinator / Program
Specialist
Vendor Management Branch**



Local Vendor Liaison (LVL) Update

- The Local Vendor Liaisons will be reaching-out to their assigned stores over the next few months to provide updates on key topics.
- If you have questions that cannot be addressed by the LVL when they contact you, please contact your WIC Vendor Consultant or the Vendor Help Desk at 1-855-942-7867.



Questions?

- Contact your WIC Vendor Consultant or the WIC Vendor Help Desk
 - WICVendorInfo@cdph.ca.gov
 - (855) 942-7867 / (855) WIC-STOR





Next Webinar – Spring 2021

