

Minnesota WIC In-Person Services

JUNE 12, 2023

Administrators,

The Minnesota WIC waivers that have been in place during the pandemic are ending August 9, 2023, and will impact the work local agencies do to provide WIC services.

What's changing

- **Minnesota WIC Waivers end August 9, 2023.**

The physical presence waivers that allowed participants to receive WIC services without providing height and weight measurements and bloodwork end August 9, 2023

- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Waivers begin August 10, 2023.**

Minnesota WIC will return to in-person services under the new American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Waivers beginning August 10, 2023. Height and weight measurements and bloodwork are required under the new waivers.

The ARPA Waivers add flexibility to waive physical presence if WIC local agencies can obtain measurements and bloodwork from a health care provider or other programs like family home visiting and Child & Teen Check Ups. We anticipate most participants will need to attend their WIC appointments in person to complete their measurements and bloodwork.

What does this mean for WIC Local agencies

Many local agencies have resumed in-person visits successfully over the past several months and families are welcoming the opportunity to see WIC staff in person.

Local agencies that have not already resumed in-person appointments should plan to open before August 10. This gives staff opportunities to readjust or learn how to provide in-person services and to manage staff time with different types of appointments.

We put together [a table](#) in this document outlining how this impacts local agencies and how you can help. Thank you for your support during this transition.

Kate Franken
MN WIC Director

Resources are available

Minnesota WIC is providing resources and guidance to local agencies leading up to the start of the ARPA waivers.

- [Q & A WIC ARPA Waivers](#)
- [Communication Resources for Resuming In-Person Services](#)
- Questions can be directed to your region’s State [WIC Consultant](#).

Local Agency Impact	How you can help
<p>This is a major shift for staff who have been working remotely or working in office but not face-to-face with families.</p>	<p>Create a timeline with steps to reopen.</p> <p>Open before August 10, beginning with new pregnant, breastfeeding/postpartum, and infant applicants to ease into in-person visits.</p> <p>Share the benefits of being back in person with staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WIC is a premier nutrition program because of the critical nutrition assessment, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals. Returning to in-person services strengthens these services. ▪ Connecting with participants. ▪ Staff working together as a team.

Local Agency Impact	How you can help
<p>Staff will need to refresh or receive training to prepare for in-person appointments.</p>	<p>Encourage staff to review or complete training:</p> <p>Anthropometric module (60 minutes)</p> <p>HemoCue OnCue Education</p> <p>MN WIC Calendar for Local Agencies includes numerous HemoCue Hb 301 System Training Webinars.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for staff to shadow others if they have never provided in-person appointments. Information about assessing growth grids is available in the Anthropometrics Manual</p> <p>Ask your staff about lessons learned a couple weeks after your clinic resumes in-person appointments.</p>
<p>There will be an adjustment or learning period for staff. They are required to collect height, weight, and hemoglobin measurements (if not available from another source).</p>	<p>Allow additional time for appointments as staff readjust or learn how to provide services in person. Seeing families in person and taking measurements or coordinating collecting required measurements from a health care provider or other program will take more time and these additional requirements will be ongoing.</p>
<p>Participants have the option to share their measurements and bloodwork through their health care provider or other program like family home visiting.</p>	<p>Inform health care providers and other partners in your community about this change. Encourage them to use the Minnesota WIC Referral Form to share measurements and bloodwork with WIC.</p> <p>Communicate with participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When your agency is returning to in-person services. ▪ Ways they can provide their measurements to WIC staff (MyChart document, screenshot or picture, etc.)

Local Agency Impact	How you can help
<p>Staff may have not used measurement equipment in years.</p>	<p>Inventory certification equipment (scales, recumbent boards, stature boards, and hemoglobin equipment).</p> <p>Test scales.</p> <p>Inventory supplies for obtaining height, weight, and hematological measurements.</p> <p>Inventory office supplies and education materials.</p> <p>Staff can practice testing hemoglobin on coworkers to develop techniques before trying to learn on an active toddler.</p>

Complete List of Hyperlinks

Q & A WIC ARPA Waivers

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/wu/2023/0502arpa.pdf>

Communication Resources for Resuming In-Person Services

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/wedupdate/2022/topic/0511resources.pdf>

WIC Consultant

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/program/ststfflst.pdf>

Anthropometric Module

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/training/cfh/wic/nutrition/anthropometric/story.html>

HemoCue HemoCue OnCue Education (<https://hemocueoncue.education/>)

MN WIC Calendar for Local Agencies

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=500k4ns9eqb26v51529qg1fpuo@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago>

Anthropometrics Manual

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/training/nutrition/nst/anthro.pdf>

Minnesota WIC Referral Form

<https://redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=7F493NRK73RXTXL8>

MINNESOTA WIC IN-PERSON SERVICES

Minnesota Department of Health - WIC Program 625 Robert St N, PO BOX 64975, ST PAUL MN 55164-0975; 1-800-657-3942, health.wic@state.mn.us, www.health.state.mn.us. To obtain this information in a different format, call: 1-800-657-3942