

# Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center

SCHOOL NUTRITION DIRECTORS

## Resources on the Role of School Nutrition Directors in School Safety Efforts

### Food Safety, Food Defense, and Contaminated Food Annexes

[Food Safety and Food Defense: Developing a Contaminated Food Annex](#), Fact Sheet (REMS TA Center and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service). Read about food safety and food defense, the assessment of food service operation hazards, implementation measures to enhance food safety and food defense, training and planning for bioterrorism, and how food safety and food defense can be incorporated into school emergency operations plans (EOPs).

[Food Safety Emergency Response Pocket Guide](#), Publication (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service). Find key food safety practices and information for school nutrition professionals to consider in various emergency situations to ensure the safe service of school meals and reduce the risk of foodborne illness. Available in English and Spanish.

[Food Defense Practices in School Nutrition Programs](#), Publication (School Nutrition Association). Read about a study that assesses the current practices in school nutrition programs to prevent intentional acts of food contamination.

[Emergency Readiness Plan: Guide and Forms for the School Foodservice Operation](#), Publications (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service and Institute of Child Nutrition [formerly known as the National Food Service Management Institute]). Find resources for child nutrition program operators to use during emergencies.

[Water Safety](#), Web Page (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service). Access information on keeping drinking water and water supplies safe from disease-causing germs and chemicals, such as lead.

[Food Safety Branch](#), Website (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service). Find information and resources for child nutrition program operators to use to protect people served by Food and Nutrition Service programs from foodborne illness.

[Food Safety Resources](#), Web Page (Institute of Child Nutrition). Find resources from the institute, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other organizations on food safety topics.

[Creating a School Food Defense Plan](#), Publication (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service). Learn about a framework and four easy steps for developing a school food defense plan.

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[Food-Safe Schools Action Guide: Creating a Culture of Food Safety](#), Publication (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Food Safety Branch; Institute of Child Nutrition; and Center for Food Safety in Child Nutrition Programs). Download this resource for school nutrition directors to use to create cultures of food safety in their community, review current efforts, take action, and communicate with stakeholders.

[Food Defense](#), Web Page (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service). Find information on food defense and why it's important, as well as tools, resources, and training.

[Tool Box](#), Web Page (REMS TA Center). Find a foodborne outbreak checklist, food biosecurity risk assessment, and sample food defense annexes from state and local practitioners.

### Training

[School EOPs In-Depth: Developing a Food Contamination Annex](#), Online Course (REMS TA Center). Learn how to incorporate food safety planning into a school EOP.

[Developing a Food Contamination Annex](#), Specialized Training Package (REMS TA Center). Learn about food contamination in school and on how planning teams can develop a Food Contamination Annex using the recommended six-step planning process.

[Produce Safety University](#), Web Page (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service). Learn about good agricultural and handling practices, specifications for fresh and fresh-cut produce, produce assessments, storage of fresh produce, and produce handling during food preparation and service. This weeklong synchronous learning opportunity is intended for school foodservice staff.

[Food Safety in Schools](#), Online Course (Institute of Child Nutrition). Learn about food safety concepts that may be applied to preparing and serving food safely and keeping school nutrition facilities safe and sanitary. Topics include food safety, prevention of foodborne illness, microorganism basics, and more. This 8-hour asynchronous learning opportunity is intended for chefs and school nutrition staff, employees, managers, and directors.

[Norovirus for Schools](#), Online Course (Institute of Child Nutrition). Learn about preventing and controlling norovirus, which causes more than half of all food-related outbreaks of gastroenteritis. This 2-hour asynchronous learning opportunity is intended for chefs and school nutrition staff, employees, managers, and directors.

[Introduction to HACCP for School Nutrition Programs](#), Online Course (Institute of Child Nutrition). Learn the basics of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles and why it is important for school nutrition staff to follow the school's food safety plan. This 1-hour

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asynchronous learning opportunity is intended for school nutrition staff and employees and chefs.

[Food Safety for Summer Meals](#), Online Course (Institute of Child Nutrition). This 1-hour asynchronous learning opportunity is intended for school nutrition staff, employees, managers, and directors; chefs; state agency personnel; and childcare center personnel.

### Feeding and Food Distribution

[Continuity of Operations \(COOP\) Planning for Education Agencies: Ensuring Continuity of Feeding and Food Distribution During Prolonged Absences, Dismissals, and Closures](#), Publication (REMS TA Center). Offers recommendations to support continuity of feeding and food distribution, common challenges identified by state partners, and Federal resources to support continuity of feeding and food distribution during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Strategies include mobile or bus route delivery and direct home delivery.

[FNS Disaster Assistance](#), Web Page (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service). Access resources for state and local operators, including a resilience and recovery tool, regional and state contacts, program manuals, and more.

### Training

[Ensuring Continuity of Feeding and Food Distribution During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), Webinar (REMS TA Center). Learn about this key element of continuity of operations planning; models being used on the state level; and Federal authorizations, waivers, and resources.

### Developing Emergency Operations Plans

[Building Blocks to School Safety: A Toolkit for K-12 Schools and School Districts for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans](#), Publication (REMS TA Center). Access a compendium of resources and information to gain an understanding of EOP development, as well as checklists for school and school district planning and response teams.

[The Role of Districts in Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans](#), Publication (U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security). Read about the specific roles and responsibilities for district-level administrators and staff in school EOP development and the six-step planning process.

[Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans](#), Publication (U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Emergency Management Agency). Read about the six-step planning process for schools to develop, revise, or review a school EOP.