

Carla Harward <harwardcarla@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 24,
1:40 PM

to Ellen

Good afternoon, Ellen,

HHEH is looking at resuming food donation operations in schools that have food waste concerns as schools return to in-person learning. We have adopted additional food-safety precautions for food collection and distribution (detailed in the attached Covid-19 Best Practices) for schools to utilize as part of their HHEH operations. I wanted to confirm with you that while food sharing and "share tables" are not presently recommended, there is no reason why food donation cannot continue safely in schools where food-safe precautions, like HHEH requires, are followed.

I appreciate your guidance as we move forward this school year.

All my best,
Carla Harward, CEO
Helping Hands Ending Hunger INC.
706-844-4014 cell

Ellen Steinberg

Tue, Aug 25,
3:10 PM

to me

Hello Carla,
Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that COVID-19 can be transmitted through food or food packaging. And, I am not aware of any COVID-related regulation or recommendation that prohibits food from being donated or suggests that donating food would be an unsafe practice (assuming safe food handling).

While the CDC recommends that food should not be shared, it is in this context: *"Schools should encourage students and staff not to share food or utensils and use disposable food service items."* But, "sharing" food is not the same as "donating" food as they do not pose the same risk for intentional or unintentional contamination.

Thus, from a food safety standpoint (excluding programmatic considerations), schools can donate food as long as strict food safety procedures are being followed.

Ellen

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