



The Coronavirus seems to be on everyone's mind. Whether you are at the grocery store, gas station, or in the hallways at your workplace, the latest event cancellation or COVID-19 related news story is the hot topic of conversation.

For most, stocking the pantry is just a matter of waiting in a long line at the nearest grocery store or warehouse shopping retailer.

Unfortunately for those facing hunger, who are living paycheck to paycheck, the idea of stocking up to be home for an extended period of time is simply not possible. That's why everyone at Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin and our partner agencies is focused on making sure those most vulnerable continue to have access to the resources they need to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

We wanted to take a few moments to share what we're doing during this national emergency:

For Program Participants

We are working with our food sources – both through donations and purchases of food – to make sure we can meet any increased demand caused by this health crisis

We are working with our partner agencies to implement ways participants can get the food they need by extending hours of operation, increasing the amount of food participants can receive at one time, or increasing the number of times a participant can get food in a given time period

We are temporarily changing how we distribute food through our mobile pantries in an effort to limit crowd sizes and the length of time people have to wait in line

We are distributing educational materials developed by the CDC that are designed to encourage healthy practices and limit the spread of the virus

For our Volunteers

We have temporarily canceled group volunteer shifts in an effort to reduce the number of people coming in to our facility

We are encouraging our incredibly loyal senior volunteers to stay home rather than risk exposure to the virus

For Our Partner Agencies

We have been in regular communication with our partner agencies to share best practices and resources from across the Feeding America network (Second Harvest is a member of Feeding America, the nations largest domestic hunger-relief organization)

We are developing a section of our website that will be a centralized source of COVID-19 related information from sources like the CDC, Feeding America, and Second Harvest

For Our Staff

We are asking staff who can work remotely to do so

We are implementing technological solutions like video chat software and emergency texting services to stay in regular contact with all staff

For Our Supporters

We remain committed to our mission to eliminate hunger in our 16-county service area

We are maintaining business as usual, but we have contingencies in place

We are closely monitoring the situation

The safety and wellbeing of our participants, partners, volunteers, and staff are our top priority

If you have any questions about our response to the COVID-19 outbreak, please visit SecondHarvestMadison.org/Coronavirus.

