

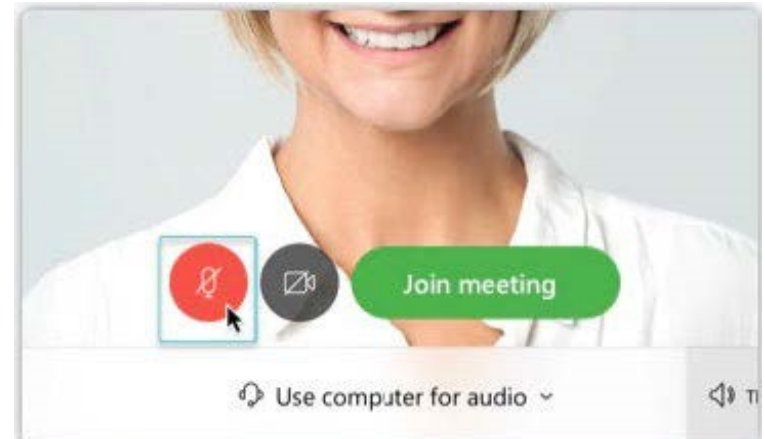
PLANNING FOR EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN COLD AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

A Conversation with Emergency Providers and Planners in Metropolitan Washington

January 28, 2021

Welcome! Meeting Reminders

- Please enter your name and affiliation in the chat box.
- Please mute your line when you aren't speaking.
- During the discussion, please identify yourself before speaking for those joining by phone.
 - *6 to mute/unmute a phone line
- Use the chat box feature to pose questions to the group or panelists.
- If you encounter any technical difficulties, please notify COG staff.



**This meeting is being
recorded and will be posted.**



Welcome and Introduction

- Thank you for joining us and for your critical support to the region's communities
- Thank you to our speakers and meeting collaborators!
- Background for today's meeting
- Agenda review



Photo by [Zach Stern/Flickr](#);

Meeting Objectives

- Share the perspectives of several food providers using a diversity of service models on how they are planning for the potential for cold or inclement weather this winter.
- Convey some key questions for putting together a plan or updating an existing plan.
- Provide a forum to address specific questions about planning for cold or inclement weather unique to a participant's operation.

Local and Regional Resources

Preparedness Mantra:

1. HAVE A PLAN

2. MAKE A KIT

(i.e., Make sure you are ready with proper gear for weather)

3. STAY INFORMED



Local Example: Montgomery County Guidance (1/4)

Adapted guidance from Montgomery County EOC to county food assistance providers

1. Encourage home delivery when possible.
2. Have a backup day and a backup-backup day if there is a snowstorm or similar multi-day storm.
3. Plan to store food properly should a pop-up distribution get cancelled to prevent waste.



Montgomery County Guidance (2/4)

4. Providers without room to do packing inside should partner with other organizations and consider alternative dispensing sites.
 - Montgomery County has facilitated access to parking garages in a few cases.
5. Tents can be used to shelter food boxes but must be secured (e.g., 10 lbs per pole for 10ft x 10ft tents),
 - Tents may not be used when wind gusts exceed 30mph.
6. Tent heaters not seen as a workable solution as they have to be 10ft away from tents.
 - Heaters may be used in garages if approved for use by facility.

Montgomery County Guidance (3/4)

7. Montgomery County prohibits food packing and dispensing of county-provided food boxes when surfaces are slippery.
 - When snow is present, parking areas and work areas should be shoveled and properly salted ahead of volunteer arrival.

8. The county prohibits food packing, dispensing, and delivery of county-provided food boxes when snow affects road conditions.
 - Follow guidance for county school closings/delays.



Photo by [VDOT/Flickr](#).

Montgomery County Guidance (4/4)

9. In temps below 40F, outdoor work sites need to adhere to a 5/2- hour work-rest cycle with frequent breaks, and a 1qt/6hour hydration cycle.
 - Warm drinks and hand warmers are encouraged for food security workers to combat the stress of working in the cold.
 - Volunteers not dressed appropriately for the cold must be sent home.

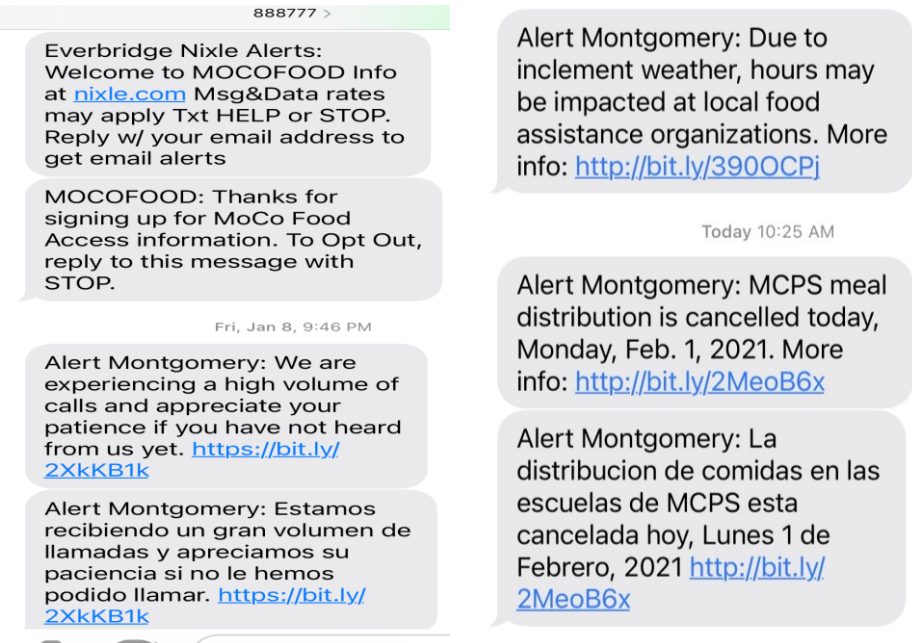
10. Food assistance providers should have a backup digital thermometer, since they often fail during cold weather. Both should be stored in warm conditions before use.
 - If the backup fails, notify volunteers.
 - All personnel should use abundance of caution go home if they have any symptoms.

MoCoFOOD Text Alert

In addition to regular alert system, Montgomery County created a public food information text alert system

For ongoing information about food resources text MOCOFOOD to 888777 (standard text rate messages apply).

Notifies the public about food resources, weekly pop up distributions, and any potential disruptions to services.



Images courtesy of Montgomery County government. Note that this slide was added after the initial presentation.

Regional Planning and Local Alerts

Every jurisdiction has a local emergency notification system.



Listing of local emergency alert services by jurisdiction for the National Capital Region, will be available on the meeting website and sent to today's participants

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