

# FOOD DONATIONS TO UW MEDICINE DURING COVID-19

*Effective June 2020*

For the duration of the state of emergency brought on by COVID-19 pandemic, there is a **temporary exception** to the UW Medicine policies that restrict gifts of food and beverages provided to UW Medicine employees (faculty, staff, residents, etc.) at UW Medicine locations by external sources.

During the initial surge period, UW Medicine Advancement staff supported the intake and scheduling of food donations, in partnership with contacts at each facility. Starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, food donations can continue to be accepted but they must be coordinated by the unit itself.

All food donations must:

- Be accepted and coordinated at the discretion of the unit.
- Be made generally available to all employees and not directed to any specific individual(s).
- Be reported to UW Medicine Advancement for proper documentation using this webform: [acceleratedmed.org/fooddonationreport](https://acceleratedmed.org/fooddonationreport).

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q.** *Can I accept a food donation from a commercial vendor that sells medical supplies or pharmaceuticals?*

**A.** During this temporary exception, yes—as long as the food is being directed to a group of employees and not to specific individuals. Once this period of emergency is over, an offer like this will not be acceptable, and would be subject to conflict of interest policies and anti-kickback statutes. If in doubt, please contact UW Medicine Compliance at [comply@uw.edu](mailto:comply@uw.edu).

**Q.** *I do not want to accept a food donation. What should I tell the donor?*

**A.** Here is some suggested language: “Thank you for your interest in making an in-kind food donation. We are grateful to everyone for their support during a time of crisis. At this time we are unable to accept your generous offer, and we hope you will direct your food donation to where it’s most needed in our community. [A list of organizations in our area can be found here](#). To learn more about how you can help UW Medicine respond to COVID-19, please visit [acceleratedmed.org/covid19-support](https://acceleratedmed.org/covid19-support).”

**Q.** *What if the donor requests a receipt for their donation?*

**A.** Ask the donor to send an email to [covidgifts@uw.edu](mailto:covidgifts@uw.edu) and the UW Medicine Advancement team will respond to the donor’s request.

**Q.** *What if the donor asks for recognition?*

**A.** Ask the donor to send an email to [covidgifts@uw.edu](mailto:covidgifts@uw.edu) and the UW Medicine Advancement team will respond to the donor’s request.

**Q.** *What if the donor wants photos / media / publicity?*

**A.** Ask the donor to send an email to [covidgifts@uw.edu](mailto:covidgifts@uw.edu) and the UW Medicine Advancement team will respond to the donor’s request. Please note that UW Medicine will not be able to publicly recognize food donors on its social channels or through media outreach, but can help coordinate appropriate donor stewardship.