

# Some Questions Answered Regarding the New 2017 Meal Pattern

**Q. I understand that I can't "deep fry" food in my facility after Oct. 1st, 2017, but can I still fry the tortillas when I make tacos for lunch or dinner if I use a sauté or frying pan?**

**A.** No, you will not be able to fry tortillas when you make tacos for any meal. A food is considered to be *deep fried* if it is fully submerged in oil while cooking. Even if you are using a smaller sauté pan and only half of the tortilla is submerged in oil at once, that is considered *deep frying* because the whole tortilla will have been fully submerged in oil by the time it is done cooking. You can heat tortillas in the oven, steam them, heat them on the stove top, or in the microwave. Other foods you will no longer be able to claim for reimbursement if you deep fry them include - but are not limited to - rolled tacos, flautas, fried chicken, homemade fried fish tacos, homemade fried chicken stripes/nuggets, potatoes, fries, or chips, etc. View our current Processed Food List to see your reimbursable pre-fried food options.

**Q. Can I use an "air fryer?"**

**A.** Yes, you can. Air fryers use only a small amount of oil, or no oil at all. They work by circulating extremely hot air around the foods, resulting in the same crispy texture normally achieved through deep frying and associated with fried foods.

**Q. Will I still be able to serve graham crackers and animal crackers/cookies as an extra at snack time if I serve two other reimbursable foods as well?**

**A.** Yes, as long as you are offering two different reimbursable foods in the correct amounts, you can also offer graham crackers or animal crackers alongside those foods. Keep in mind you are not reimbursed for "extra" foods offered.

**Q. Will I have to serve whole milk to 1 year olds until their 2nd birthday? That would mean I have to buy 2 different types of milk, right?**

**A.** Yes, it will become mandatory that you offer whole milk to 1 year old children on October 1st, 2017. This does mean that if you have children who are 1 year old and children who are 2 years and older, you will have to buy whole milk for the 1 year olds and 1% or fat-free milk for the children 2 years and older.

**Q. If I'm feeding a bottle to an infant and he/she doesn't finish the required minimum serving size of breastmilk or formula offered to him/her, is that meal still reimbursable?**

**A.** Yes, as long as the infant is *offered* the minimum required amount of breastmilk or formula that meal is reimbursable. Infants don't eat on a strict schedule and should not be force fed, they should be fed during a time span and in a way that is consistent with their normal eating habits.