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# Watch: Families line up around a school for free meals as Dallas ISD starts its once-a-week food pickup

The district served over 320,000 meals to 37,000 students and families last week.



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Dallas ISD employees and volunteers prepared bagged breakfasts, lunches and suppers for students at Medrano Middle School in Dallas on Thursday. For many students' families, normal food insecurity has been exacerbated by COVID-19 closures. (Lynda M. Gonzalez / Staff Photographer)



Dallas police Officer Sherneka Coleman distributed meals at Medrano Middle School in Dallas on Thursday. (Lynda M. Gonzalez / Staff Photographer)



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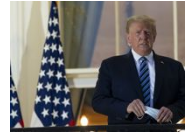
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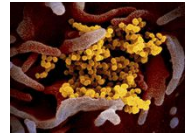
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Food service supervisor Latoncia Anderson distributes meals. (Lynda M. Gonzalez / Staff Photographer)



Siblings (from left) Anthony Sanchez, 13, Isaiah Sanchez, 12, Joseph Avaral, 7, Adrian Saldana, 9, and Crystal Sanchez, 14, received meals at Medrano on Thursday. (Lynda M. Gonzalez / Staff Photographer)



Dallas ISD employees and volunteers distributed the meals. (Lynda M. Gonzalez / Staff Photographer)

Because of the high demand, the district opened an alternate site at Cigarroa Elementary, a little over a mile from Medrano, to serve families and students in northwest Dallas.

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The neighborhood was hit hard by several tornadoes on Oct. 20, and damage in several areas has yet to be repaired. The storms destroyed nearby Cary Middle School, and the district decided to move half of its students to Medrano.

Over 86% of Dallas' 153,000 students live at or near the poverty line as defined by federal guidelines. The district served over 320,000 meals to 37,000 students and families last week.



#### PUBLIC HEALTH

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Corbett Smith. Education writer (and part-time HS sportswriter) for The Dallas Morning News

 [corbettsmith@dallasnews.com](mailto:corbettsmith@dallasnews.com)  [/DMNEducation](https://www.facebook.com/DMNEducation)  
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As he hangs out of his family's car sunroof, Isaias Ovalle, 3, reaches for bagged school meals from food service supervisor Patricia Jackson (right) at Medrano Middle School in Dallas on Thursday, April 2, 2020. Many families of students struggle with food insecurity, exacerbated by COVID-19 closures. DISD is now limiting food distribution to Thursdays only. (Lynda M. Gonzalez / Staff Photographer)



By [Corbett Smith](#)

5:48 PM on Apr 2, 2020



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Long lines once again formed around Medrano Middle School as Dallas ISD started its once-a-week food pickup program Thursday.

#### TIMELAPSE: Vehicles Line Up for DISD Meal Giveaw



The district's food service department will now distribute five days of free food at once to families and students as part of its grab-and-go program, moving away from its model of giving two or three days of meals twice a week. Meals can be picked up every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at one of 47 locations.

DISD spokesperson Robyn Harris said final figures for Thursday's food service wouldn't be available until Friday morning. But Medrano was the busiest site among the district's pickup locations last week, serving nearly 2,600 students.

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