

WIC Vendor eBulletin October 2024

Welcome to the Washington State Department of Health WIC Vendor e-Bulletin. Please share this with all staff involved in WIC. *READ, INITIAL, and place in WIC Training binder.*

You can find a copy of this document and back issues of e-Bulletins on our DOH WIC website: <u>http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC/WIC/WICVendors</u>.

Contact us at <u>WICRetailManagement@doh.wa.gov</u> or 1-800-841-1410 Ext. 2 if you have questions or need assistance.

Click here for a printer friendly e-Bulletin. It's located near the bottom of the web page. You can also subscribe to receive quarterly eBulletin newsletters. Information for WIC Vendors | Washington State Department of Health



Welcome Newly WIC Authorized Grocery Stores

We are pleased to welcome the following stores as new WIC approved vendors!

- Entiat Food Center in Entiat, Chelan County
- Fullers Market Place in Centralia, Lewis County
- Mi Casa Market 3 in Ephrata, Grant County
- Midtown Market in Bremerton, Kitsap County
- Okanogan Food Center in Okanogan, Okanogan County
- San Marcos Market in Bridgeport, Douglas County
- Skagit Valley Food Co-op in Mount Vernon, Skagit County
- Su Mercado in Granger, Yakima County
- Walgreens #21452 in Seattle, King County
- White Swan Trading Post in White Swan, Yakima County

Target Self-Checkout



WIC participants can now perform WIC transactions at self-checkout stations at Target stores in Washington state.

Participants are encouraged to separate WIC foods from non-WIC items and also to scan the most expensive items first. That ensures their WIC benefits will pay for the most expensive items in the case that they must use some other form of payment for part of the transaction.

There is a 50-item limit when performing a WIC transaction. If a participant appears to have more than 50 items, they should split it into multiple transactions.

You can find out more about shopping tips in the <u>WIC</u> <u>Shopping Guide</u>.

New WIC-Approved Foods Coming in January



Starting on January 6, 2025, WIC participants will be able to buy newly approved foods from the following food categories:

- Bread and Buns
- Breakfast Cereal
- Brown Rice
- Cow's Milk and Goat's Milk
- Fresh Herbs
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Soy Beverages
- Tofu
- Tortillas
- Oatmeal

Starting December 30, 2024, please work with your POS provider to ensure your system has uploaded the Approved Products List (APL). Upload the APL often from December 30 to January 6. This ensures your POS system will allow newly approved products and remove deactivated products. Our Foods team will be sending out a memo in mid-November, which will include the new UPC/PLU information.

Please work with staff to have WIC labels reflect the updated foods during January. The updated <u>WA WIC Shopping Guide</u> and <u>Approved Product List (APL)</u> will be available only online starting January 6, 2025. There will be several updates in 2025, and we'll be printing the Shopping Guide in October, 2025.

Foods Added to the Approved Product List



Washington WIC is only able to provide foods that are on our Authorized Product List (APL). When people or companies submit new foods, we conduct a review of the item to verify the product meets all WIC requirements. Once verified, we can add it to the APL and WIC participants will have the choice to buy the item.

We review and approve submitted foods often. In order for participants to be able to purchase the added foods, **please make sure your POS system is updated.**

If you have foods you'd like to submit for review, you can visit <u>Submit Foods for Review - Vendors | Washington State</u> <u>Department of Health</u> or scan the QR code.



Store Monitoring

You might see one of our friendly Vendor Management Specialists in your store completing a store monitor visit. The purpose of monitoring visits is to ensure federal regulations and vendor agreement requirements are met. During a monitor visit, we may check for:

- Hours of operation & WIC door signs posted
- Prices posted and match what is charged during an education buy
- Minimum inventory requirements
- Outdated foods
- Shelf tag usage
- Training documentation

We're always available if you have questions, issues to discuss, need training or technical assistance. We want to ensure you have the tools to be successful.

Feel free to contact us or visit <u>Information for WIC Vendors | Washington State</u> Department of Health.



Darigold Milk Carton Size Update



On December15, Darigold will start shipping WIC approved half gallon (64oz) milk cartons to stores. The 64 oz size will replace their current 59 oz cartons that are not WIC approved. You can use your WIC card to buy half a gallon of Darigold milk as soon as it arrives in stores.

Email <u>WAWICFoods@doh.wa.gov</u> with any questions.

Size	Item Description	Item Details- Product Data: Unit UPC
64 Ounce	DG Lac Free FF Hg UP	026400405214
64 Ounce	DG FF Hg UP	026400296010
64 Ounce	DG Lac Free 1pc Hg UP	026400440406
64 Ounce	DG 1pc Hg UP	026400298717
64Ounce	DG Lac Free 2pc Hg UP	026400405207
64 Ounce	DG 2pc Hg UP	026400289616
64 Ounce	DG Lac Free Homo Hg UP	026400440086
64 Ounce	DG Homo Hg UP	026400275619

WICShopper App-Search for Food Brands/Flavors

The WICShopper mobile app is **full** of useful tools that both WIC participants and WIC vendors can use to their benefit.

If a participant has their card entered into the app, they can view their benefits by clicking on the "My Benefits" icon. They can go a step further and click on a specific food item within their benefits and search for certain brand names or flavors they prefer.

See this <u>website page</u> for more helpful tips about the WICShopper app.



Vendor Interactive Training Schedule 2024



All WIC authorized stores must attend an interactive training within the current contract period, which ends on September 30, 2026. We have created a schedule of upcoming **on-line and in-person interactive trainings** this year to help you accomplish this goal. Additional trainings will eventually be scheduled for 2025 and 2026, but we encourage stores to not wait to fulfill this requirement.

Your store can sign up for an interactive training by clicking your preferred training link below to register.

Sign up for an **English online or in-person** training by

registering at: https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/wic/wic-vendors/training.

English Online Training Schedule:

• November 13, 2024: 2:00pm - 3:30pm

English In-Person Training Schedule:

Date / Times	Location
None at this time	N/A

Sign up for a **Spanish In-Person** training by registering at:

https://doh.wa.gov/es/you-and-your-family-wic-wic-vendors/informacion-decapacitacion-para-proveedores-de-wic

Spanish In-Person Training Schedule:

Date / Times	Location
None at this time	N/A

WIC Supplies for Your Store



Vendor Training Guides, WIC shelf tags, WIC Shopping Guides, WIC Accepted Here window clings, and other supplies are available at no cost to WIC stores.

To request WIC Vendor supplies simply complete the <u>Vendor Supply Order Form</u> on the <u>WIC Vendor Training</u> <u>Information page</u> or by scanning the QR code. Provide complete and accurate contact information to receive requested supplies promptly.

Another option is to request supplies directly from MyPrint at <u>WIC Vendors</u> or by scanning the QR code. Currently, WIC Accepted Here window clings, WIC shelf tags, and Shopping Guides in 33 languages are available here. The new 2024 Vendor Training Guide will be available within the next month.

Stores may also send an email to <u>WICRetailManagement@doh.wa.gov</u>.



We are here for you!

Washington State WIC is grateful to you for your dedication to providing nutritious foods for program participants and continuing to support the WIC program.

CONTACT US

Washington State Department of Health Office of Nutrition Services, WIC Vendor Management (800) 841-1410 Ext. 2 <u>WICRetailManagement@doh.wa.gov</u> https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC/WICVendors

WIC Foods: WaWICFoods@doh.wa.gov

Complaints: www.doh.wa.gov/youandyourfamily/WIC/makeacomplaint

For all POS related issues contact your POS Provider



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