



Date: June 9, 2022

DMS Operations Memo 22-09

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff

Affected Programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus | <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FoodShare | <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare | |

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Adjustment to FoodShare Temporary Absence Policy

CROSS REFERENCE

- FoodShare Handbook, [3.2.1.2 Temporary Absence](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE

June 25, 2022

PURPOSE

This operations memo announces the change made to the FoodShare Temporary Absence Policy to better align with the health care Temporary Absence Policy. A time limit will no longer be used to determine whether a FoodShare member is temporarily absent.

BACKGROUND

FoodShare policy states that for a member to be considered temporarily absent, they must be out of the home or food unit for no more than two consecutive calendar months. Some reasons for temporary absence include illness, hospitalization, employment, caring for someone outside of the home, child visitation, and extended vacations as detailed in FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook [3.2.1.2 Temporary Absence](#). A temporarily absent FoodShare member should continue to be included in the food unit if they had lived in the food unit household immediately before the temporary absence and they intend to return.

POLICY

A FoodShare member is considered temporarily absent when they will be out of the home or food unit for an extended period of time, but will be returning to the food unit. There is no time limit on how long an individual can be temporarily absent. A member can be either staying in Wisconsin or in another state during their temporary absence.

An individual's temporary absence status will be re-evaluated at renewal. Individuals will not be required to verify Wisconsin Residency if they are claiming to be temporarily absent.

Once an individual notifies the Income Maintenance (IM) agency that they no longer reside in Wisconsin, they are no longer temporarily absent and are considered ineligible for FoodShare. Likewise, if another state considers the individual as eligible for SNAP benefits within that state, they are no longer considered temporarily absent and no longer a Wisconsin resident.

CONTACTS

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DHS/DMS/BEEP/JT