

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC

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# FSIS NOTICE

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35-20

6/26/20

## PREVENTING HEAT-STRESS ILLNESS

### I. PURPOSE

This notice announces that inspection program personnel (IPP) can order items from the Material Management Service Center (MMSC) to help prevent heat-stress illness.

### II. BACKGROUND

A. Typically, July and August are the hottest months of the year in the U.S., and heatwaves are a common occurrence. FSIS routinely addresses heat as a hazard. This summer, however, FSIS is providing extra information due to necessary precautions related to COVID-19. IPP are now wearing additional protective gear that can trap heat close to the body and may contribute to heat stress. FSIS encourages IPP to drink plenty of water or electrolyte fluid replacement drinks throughout the day, even before feeling thirsty. For additional information about heat-stress illness, please visit [Managing Heat Stress – Know the Signs](#).

B. IPP are required to wear both a face covering and face shield while in establishments and plants. If the face covering becomes wet or contaminated, IPP are to replace it with a clean, dry covering. These actions are important measures to help protect employees from the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace, but they necessitate increased vigilance to prevent heat stress illness.

### III. AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS TO PREVENT HEAT-STRESS ILLNESS

A. FSIS is providing multiple items to IPP to help prevent heat-stress illness. IPP can order vented helmets, neck cooling scarves, and electrolyte fluid replacement drinks from the MMSC.

B. The table below lists the items now available at the MMSC. Additional items that FSIS provides to prevent heat-stress illness will be added to the table. The table will be posted here: [FSIS Notices](#) under FSIS Notice 35-20.

**Heat Stress Illness Prevention Items**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| FSIS-04V      | Vented Helmet                                       |
| FSIS-68       | Neck Cooling Scarves (2 Pack)                       |
| FSIS-69-FP    | Sqwinchers, Fruit Punch Flavor (Box 50)             |
| FSIS-69-FP-SF | Sqwinchers, Sugar Free, Fruit Punch Flavor (Box 50) |
| FSIS-69-LL    | Sqwinchers, Lemon Lime Flavor (Box 50)              |
| FSIS-69-OR    | Sqwinchers, Orange Flavor (Box 50)                  |
| FSIS-69-OR-SF | Sqwinchers, Sugar Free, Orange Flavor (Box 50)      |

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**DISTRIBUTION:** Electronic; All Field Employees

**NOTICE EXPIRES:** 7/1/21

**OPI:** OPPD

Refer questions through supervisory channels.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rachel A. Edelstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and 'A'.

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development