

Meeting the Need:
Providing Menstrual Products to
Students During School Closures



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

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Background

[Education Code 35292.6](#) states that public schools containing grades 6-12 that meet a 40% pupil poverty threshold (i.e., Title I schools) are required to stock 50% of their restrooms with menstrual products.

Schools are currently closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the need for these products still exists. This resource provides tools for soliciting donations and best practices for distributing menstrual products in schools and communities.

First Steps – Acquiring Products

1. Check with district/school administrators and facilities staff to see if there is an **existing supply of products**, either in warehouses or in restrooms.
2. Check to see if the **budget** for purchasing these products still exists.
3. If you wish to seek donations, explore the options on page 3.
4. See pages 5-7 for examples of communicating with school staff, families and students about the availability of these products and how to obtain them.

Next Steps – Distributing Products

Food Distribution Sites:

Some districts have added menstrual products to the items being offered to families and students at their food distribution sites. Some best practices to consider include:

- Inform families and students ahead of time that these products are available. Consider an All-Call phone call or email to families and students, see sample language on page 6. See page 7 for sample language to include on promotional materials (e.g., flyers).
- Provide instructions on how and where to find the products. E.g., “look for the table with the yellow tablecloth as you drive up to the meal distribution site”
- Have a separate table apart from meal distribution to distribute these products. Ideally, Nursing/Health staff manage this table.
- Put products in brown paper bags. Staff can put them in the bags ahead of time if possible, or as they are requested by families/students.
- Ask families/student if they would like tampons or pads or both.
- Include these products at food distribution sites as often as possible, at a minimum monthly.

- If done monthly, provide students with a few month's supply. For example, 30 tampons and/or 30 pads.

School or District Offices:

- If distributing menstrual products in conjunction with existing food distribution is not possible, consider housing products in open school/district sites with a point person (nurse or health clerk, for example) for families/students to contact to arrange a time to safely pick up.
- Inform families and students of the availability of these products in the same manners as above.

DONATIONS

Soliciting Donations Directly

[Good360](http://Good360.org) (Good360.org)

[Good360](http://Good360.org) is a charitable organization that connects corporate donors with non-profit agencies. Non-profit organizations can create an account and then ‘shop’ the Good360 catalog. Note that delivery is not usually included, and items might have to be picked up from a distribution site.

Phone number for Nonprofit Relations team: 703-836-2121, M - F, 9AM - 5PM EST.

“Nonprofits can join Good360 through our online registration tool. Membership is free, but in order to qualify you must be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt recognized public charity.

If you are a school, church, newly developed organization or under a 501(c)(3) group exemption, you may also register using our online registration tool.”



[I Support the Girls](http://ISupportTheGirls.org) (ISupportTheGirls.org)

“Through an international network of Affiliates, I Support the Girls (ISTG) collects and distributes essential items, including bras, underwear, and menstrual hygiene products, allowing women experiencing homelessness, impoverishment, or distress to stand tall with dignity.

I Support the Girls collects donations of new and gently used bras, and individually sealed tampons and maxi pads and distributes them to girls and women experiencing homelessness across the U.S. and globally.”

A parent, teacher or community member can become a local affiliate and ISTG will provide support to receive donations and organize donation drives. Visit their website or call (240) 816-0570 for more information.



I S U P P O R T T H E G I R L S

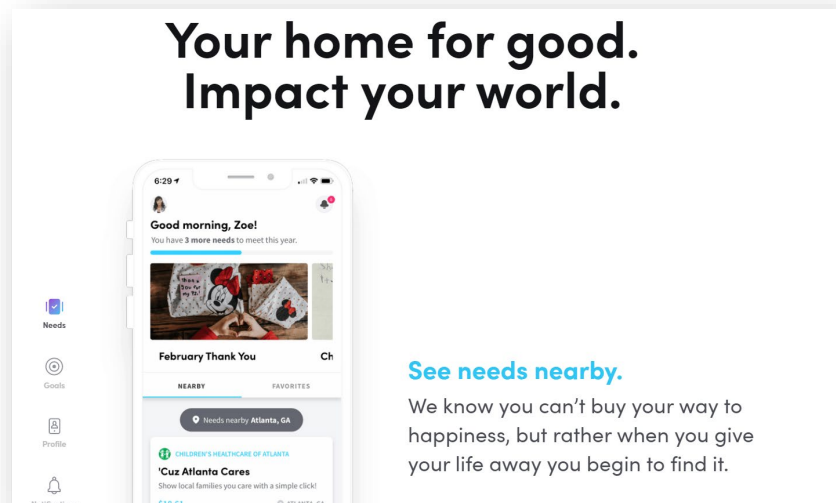
Tools to Start a Donation Drive in Your Community

[Amazon Wish List](http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist) (www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist)

Amazon Wish Lists are like gift registries, where you can request selected items to be purchased for you or your organization. Donors can purchase items on an organization's wish list, and the items are sent directly to the organization. Districts or individuals can create a Wish List and promote among the community to seek donations.

[Purposity](http://www.Purposity.com) (www.Purposity.com)

Purposity is a not-for-profit app that connects the physical needs of people, schools and students, vetted through established local nonprofits, with locals who want to help through just a few clicks. The app supports the work of local schools and nonprofits, enabling them to quickly and easily meet the needs of their students and clients. Districts can create an account and promote among the community to seek donations.



Sample Communication to Families and District Staff for Menstrual Product Distribution via Meal Distribution Sites

Communication to District Staff:

Dear Staff:

XXX District, with the collaboration of our district nurses, is conducting a drive thru / walk-up distribution of menstrual products including pads and tampons, free of charge. This initiative is focused on our priority high schools (XXX) and distribution sites have been chosen within these communities as below. Menstrual products will be centrally supplied and will not come from your site's inventory. Supplies will be stored at distribution sites between distribution dates. This initiative will be staffed by district staff. Distribution dates will be on the following dates: XXX. Product distribution time for all locations from XX a.m. to XX p.m.

This information will be shared with families via phone and email including the attached flier. Please feel free to share this information on your school's own Website.

For any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to your site nurse.

Current Distribution locations:

At distribution sites:

- For parents walking with children to pick up products, please remind families keep family units 6 feet away from other family units as they line up
- For parents in cars, they can open car windows and stretch out an arm to receive parcels; If the distributor does the same, you will maintain a safe distance
- Whenever possible, from inside the car, the driver opens the hatch or trunk from inside, and the distributor places food packages in there

Family and Student Communication:

Dear XXX District Families,

XXX District, with the collaboration of our district nurses, is conducting a drive thru / walk-up distribution of menstrual products including pads and tampons, free of charge. Distribution dates will be on the following dates: XXXX. Product distribution time for all locations from XX a.m. to XX p.m.

Current Distribution locations:

- XXX
- XXX
- XXX

Estimadas familias del distrito escolar XXX

El Distrito XXX, con la colaboración de nuestras enfermeras de distrito, está organizando una distribución de productos femeninos de menstruación incluyendo tampones y toallas femeninas sin costo de manera de entrega de productos a su carro sin tenerse que bajar. Las fechas de distribución serán los siguientes : XXX. La hora de distribuir productos en todas las localidades es desde las XXam hasta la XXpm.

Las ubicaciones actuales de distribución son:

- XXX
- XXX
- XXX

Menstrual Product Distribution

XXX is conducting a drive thru / walk-up distribution of menstrual products including pads and tampons, free of charge. The goal of this initiative is to ensure our students have access to these products as needed. Our District team is reaching out to students at these high priority schools...

If you are in need of any of these products, please visit any of the following food distribution locations.

Products are free of charge for students while supplies last. When picking up products, please be prepared to show student identification and/or provide their school ID number.

Distribution will be on the following days:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Distribution time for all locations from XX:XX to XX:XX

Look for the... (e.g., yellow tablecloths)

Current Distribution locations:

XXX

XXX

XXX

Instructions:

1. **Face Covering:** Please wear it to pick up site
2. **Drive Up:** Remain in car
3. **Walk Up:** Maintain 6 foot Social Distancing; Please DO NOT bring anyone other than those absolutely necessary
4. **DO NOT** come if you are feeling ill (coughing, sneezing, fever, shortness of breath)