This will be a holiday like no other. People are struggling to determine what a safe family gathering will look like while continuing to grapple with rising food insecurity in our community.

As the COVID-19 crisis has unfolded, many of our neighbors have stepped into our pantry lines for the first time. In October, almost four times as many people compared to before the pandemic logged on to our online Food Locator to find resources, an open food pantry, or assistance applying for CalFresh (food stamps). More people than ever before are making the tough choices between paying for either rent, utilities, medication, or food.

In response to the pandemic, we raced to create new programming and transform how the Food Bank operates. We opened emergency Pop-up pantries in areas with the greatest need across San Francisco and Marin, and started home-delivery to thousands of seniors sheltering in place. In many neighborhoods we are now distributing double, triple, or even ten times the amount of food.

As we enter the holiday months, it is more important than ever before to make sure families can put food on their table. That is why during the month of November, we will ensure to hand out grocery bags with food items such as cooking oil, chicken, and extra seasonal produce. We could not do this without your support. Thanks to countless donors, volunteers, and corporate partners, we will provide food for close to 1.5 million meals this holiday season. It is a testament to our community’s dedication to provide food for all.
The Holiday Season by the Numbers

Our cost for food has increased 60% — This holiday season — We’ll spend 3x more on food compared to last year.

Last year, we distributed 855,000 holiday meals, and this year we’ll distribute 1,460,000 holiday meals.

Last year, we home-delivered to 3,400 seniors and people with disabilities, and this year we’ll deliver 8,000+ seniors get holiday groceries delivered to their door.

Last year, 275+ food pantries help distribute the food, and this year 300+ pantries will help — including 29 emergency pop-ups.

This year we’ll provide families with 232,722 lbs of chicken, about 50,000 lbs of turkey, and over 1,000,000 lbs of fresh produce.

This year, 55,000 households rely on us every week — almost 2x more than last year.

About ⅓ of our 275+ pantries closed for safety reasons.

First Drive-thru Pantry

PANTRY-AT-HOME LAUNCHED delivering groceries to seniors sheltering at home.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE

About ⅓ of our 275 pantries closed for safety reasons.

1st Pop-Up Pantries serving 5-10x the size of our average weekly pantry.

Doubled our distribution.

Open our 29th Pop-up.

More than twice the need for weekly volunteers — from 1,200 to 2,500 per week.

Still, nearly 4x as many visits to our online food locator.

Every day, it takes 35 trucks to deliver food to the pantry network.

sfmfoodbank.org