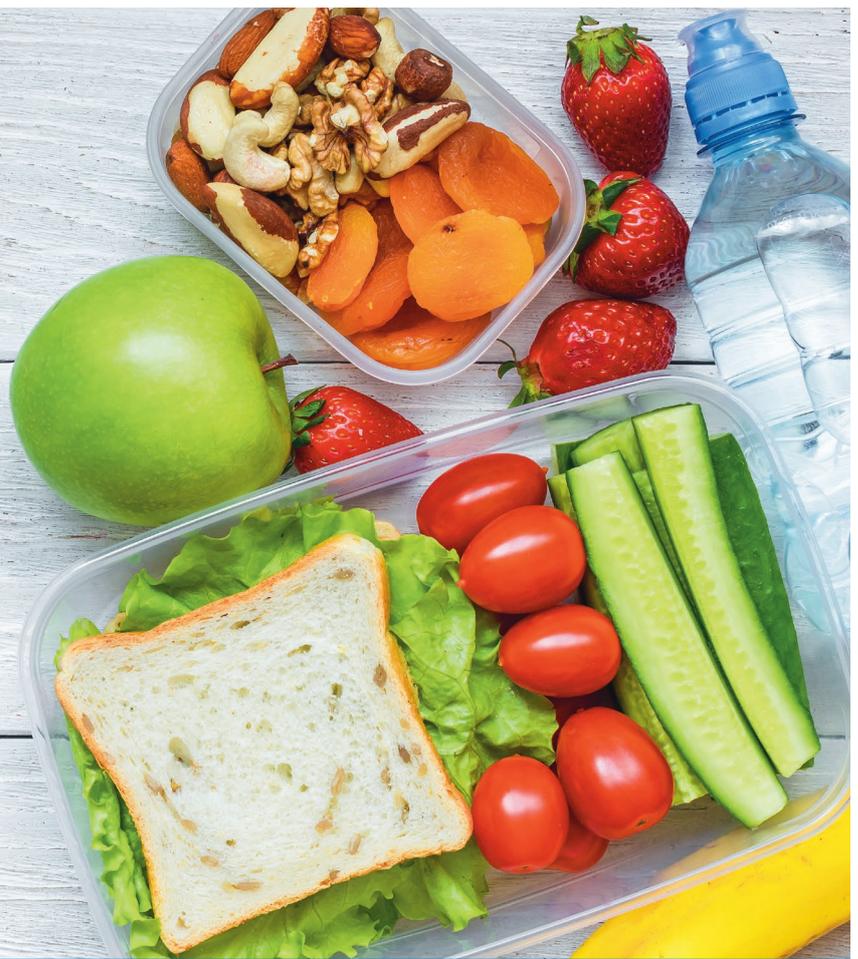


Food on the go when it was needed most



Over the past few months, NHS Supply Chain: Food teams have been working closely with NHS Trusts across England, supporting them with various initiatives through these unprecedented times.

The initiatives included producing guides about choosing the right food for patients who had difficulty swallowing (dysphagia) following ventilation, ideas and guidance on high protein snacks and drinks for recovering patients, emergency meal suggestions for short-staffed kitchens, and supplying specially designed lunch boxes for NHS staff – the latter of which has been developed into a regular offering

The lunchboxes were created at the height of the pandemic in response to an urgent request from the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (NWAS) to provide 10,000 lunch boxes over the Easter bank holiday weekend to support frontline staff who were working extremely hard to save lives.

NHS Supply Chain: Food worked with framework suppliers to create boxes that provided high-energy food to go, ensuring plenty of variety and dietary options were available, and their efforts were gratefully welcomed by the NWAS. “Despite the short notice we had to pull this together, we were very grateful,” said Linda Sutcliffe, Operational Procurement Manager at NWAS. “The lunches were of high quality and were thoroughly enjoyed. Communication channels remained open throughout the weekend, which allowed NWAS to organise distribution of the lunches once they were received. Thanks to all your staff for their tremendous effort and we look forward to continuing our partnership in the future.”

As a result of this experience, NHS Supply Chain: Food has developed the staff lunch box opportunity further and produced material with content suggestions and dietetic guidelines for NHS Trusts to either create themselves or to utilise the NHS Supply Chain: Food framework suppliers.

NHS Supply Chain: Food worked with framework suppliers to create boxes that provided high-energy food to go.

For more information about the lunch boxes, or any other areas you need support with, please contact your local NHS Supply Chain: Food Account Manager or email food@supplychain.nhs.uk