

Indiana-wide COVID-19 Research Networking Event - Abstract Presentation

To: Lourenco, Ana Eliza Port <aneportl@iu.edu>;

Dear Ana Eliza,

We would like to congratulate you for being chosen to present your abstract at the upcoming Indiana-wide COVID19 Research Networking Event on Wednesday, June 10th.

ABSTRACT INFORMATION

- **Abstract Title:** School feeding and food and nutrition security in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic in the northern region of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- **Abstract Objective(s):** Due to the pandemic and the suspension of in person school classes, there was an interruption in the meals served to approximately 40 million students, who benefited from the Brazilian National School Feeding Program (PNAE). Family farmers who sell their products to this program have also been affected. We describe in this study strategies adopted for maintaining school feeding during the Covid-19 pandemic in the northern region of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We discuss possible impacts of these strategies on the population's food and nutrition security.
- **Abstract Method (s):** This is a descriptive, qualitative study in progress since March 2020. We reviewed federal, state and local policy documents related to school feeding in Brazil. We also conducted interviews with PNAE managers of the municipalities of Campos dos Goytacazes e Macaé, which together cover about 80% of the population in the region. We are analyzing these documents and interviews in relation to existing Brazilian guidance on food and nutrition security. This study is part of a broader project developed by the Center for the Study of School Health and Nutrition (NESANE), approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Campus of Macaé.
- **Abstract Preliminary Results:** The municipalities have developed their own distinct strategies to try to overcome political and socio-cultural operational obstacles in order to maintain the goals of the school feeding program. In Campos dos Goytacazes, food kits have been distributed to students' families. Macaé, on the other hand, is making direct income transfers to families. Depending on the strategy and duration of the pandemic, the impacts on food and nutrition security can be wide-ranging. Income transfer, for example, may be convenient in operational terms, but it does not guarantee the acquisition or quality of food and does not establish partnerships with local farmers. Disparities between federal laws and local actions, food quality, the role of local farmers are the main issues we are examining. Identifying local challenges and successes experienced in Brazil in the context of the pandemic can be useful for understanding vulnerabilities and solutions related to food and nutrition security in the country and globally.
- **Abstract Collaborators:** Luana Silva Monteiro; Naiara Sperandio; Priscila Vieira Pontes