

Pandemic Food Assistance

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Information for Families

PreK-12 Students in our district who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals will be provided funds to purchase food through P-EBT (Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer), a food assistance program, while schools are closed due to COVID-19.

What to know about P-EBT:

Who: All students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals will receive P-EBT funds through the MA Department of Transitional Assistance.

What: Each eligible student in your household will receive \$5.70 per school day that schools are closed due to COVID-19

How: You don't need to apply to receive P-EBT. Funds will be distributed in 2 ways:

- If you **currently receive SNAP and or TAFDC benefits and have an EBT card**, P-EBT funds will be added to that card.
- If you **do not already have an EBT card**, you will receive a preloaded P-EBT card by mail

When: The first round of P-EBT funds will be distributed in early May, with another round distributed later.

Why: P-EBT is a resource to purchase food during COVID-19

Where: P-EBT funds can be used to purchase food items in stores that accept EBT. Visit www.fns.usda.gov/snap for more details on approved retailers and purchases.

Using your P-EBT funds does not impact your or your child's immigration status. The public charge rule does not apply to this program.

Students enrolled in schools that provides free breakfasts and lunches for every student are automatically eligible and will receive P-EBT funds.

Additional Information is available here

https://meals4kids.org/sites/cnop/files/Pandemic%20EBT_for%20providers.pdf

and here https://meals4kids.org/sites/cnop/files/P-EBT%20for%20families_final_pre-k%20-%202012.pdf

Help with P-EBT Card Use

Families whose students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch started to receive P-EBT cards in the mail on Friday, May 29, and many are having trouble activating their card. Please refer to the following information from the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA):

How to Activate (PIN) a P-EBT Card

You will need the letter DTA sent you in the mail to activate the card. If you lost the letter or never received one, you can call DTA's Assistance Line at [\(877\) 382-2363](tel:877-382-2363) and press 6. Their staff can help families to get the case information you need.

The Massachusetts EBT vendor was not able to change the automated prompts you hear when you call to PIN a card, and unfortunately, some of the automated instructions are inaccurate for P-EBT cards. Instead, please follow the steps below:

- Call the EBT card phone number on the back of your P-EBT card: 800-997-2555.
- Enter your P-EBT card number (it is an 18-digit number).
- You will then be prompted incorrectly to enter the last four digits of your Social Security number. **Do not enter the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. For the P-EBT cards, you must enter the last four digits of your child's case number that was provided on the DTA letter you received in the mail.**
- Then enter your **child's** date of birth using a two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year (example: 04/06/2005).

For more information, visit: map-ebt.org. Questions? Call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline at [800-645-8333](tel:800-645-8333).

WIC Information for Families

The MA Department of Public Health's Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) Nutrition Program is informing our health and community partners that WIC services are available by phone. ALL WIC Programs are able to provide **all services by phone** to align with social distancing efforts. The WIC [website](#) will be kept up-to-date as well. Contact local WIC programs with any questions about breastfeeding, nutrition or shopping. Even if local program offices are not open, they are responding to phone calls and providing services from remote locations. WIC is committed to providing families with continued support now and in the days ahead.

WIC welcomes families at any time. Check out WIC's [eligibility page](#) to see how to families can [apply online](#) for WIC services. Parents, grandparents and foster parents may apply for children under the age of five years who are in their care.

Call WIC at 1-800-942-1007 or 617-721-6601 weekdays Monday through Friday 9am – 5pm. If you hear a recording, please leave a message with your name and telephone number, and staff will respond the same business day or email a Local WIC Program directly with any questions. Download the list: [WIC Local Program Email Addresses](#).

Other Information:

Do you need help getting enough food? If your family has recently experienced a reduction in income, you may be eligible to receive SNAP benefits. Information on applying for SNAP and other available food resources can be found at www.projectbread.org/COVID19 or call 800-645-8333 for free, confidential support on P-EBT, SNAP, School meals, and food pantries in more than 160 languages.