

PANDEMIC EBT:

Additional Food Support During COVID-19



Many families in Vermont received notice that they would be getting an additional benefit because they have one or more children qualifying for free school meals- this new benefit is called Pandemic EBT (P-EBT).

P-EBT provides funds to help families impacted by the COVID school closure to stretch their food budget.

Who will get P-EBT?

Any household with children who would be receiving free school meals if not for the current school closure:

- Your child qualified for free/reduced-priced meals this school year, or
- Your child attends a school where every student gets free breakfast and lunch

If your household finances have recently changed, apply for free school meals or 3SquaresVT today to get looped in!

How much is the benefit?

Households will receive up to \$387.60 per child. Additional benefits may be issued later.

How does it work?

Benefits are issued on an EBT (electronic benefit transfer) card to the parent or guardian identified as the head of household- this works just like a debit card to buy groceries. You will need to activate the card before use. This card can be used at most grocery stores, general stores, and many farmers markets! If you already receive 3SquaresVT, the additional benefit will be loaded onto the card you already have.

P-EBT can be used to purchase the food items your family likes- fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and dairy products, canned goods, and more! You can even use your card to purchase plant starts and seeds.

Does P-EBT replace the free school meals from grab-and-go sites or delivery?

No! P-EBT is available in addition to meals being distributed through schools. Families are encouraged to use both resources to stay well-nourished!

Will using P-EBT impact my immigration status?

Using your P-EBT card will NOT impact you or your child's immigration status. The public charge rule does not apply to P-EBT.

How do I learn more about accessing food for my children and family during this time?

Every Vermonter deserves dignified access to food that nourishes their family. If your household has recently lost pay, you may be eligible for 3SquaresVT. To learn more about 3SquaresVT and other food resources, dial 2-1-1 or visit www.hungerfreevt.org/coronavirus

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