

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Quick Reference Guide – COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is P-EBT?

A. In response to the COVID-19 emergency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture developed the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. P-EBT is designed to provide cash benefits on an EBT card to be used to purchase food. The program is meant for families with children who received free and reduced meals during the 2019–2020 school year. This program provides assistance to cover food costs for the days schools were closed due to the COVID-19 emergency. P-EBT eligible families will receive up to \$281 per eligible child and the benefit will be split into two issuances. The P-EBT cards can be used for food purchase in all locations that accept SNAP EBT. Authorized vendors include: grocery stores, convenience stores, farmer’s markets and online purchasing through Amazon and Walmart.

Who is eligible for P-EBT?

A. The primary criteria for P-EBT is the utilization of the free and reduced-priced school meal program during the 2019-2020 school year. This program is open to all children regardless of whether they utilized pick up “to-go” meals in their school, community or receive SNAP benefits.

Q. Who will receive their P-EBT benefits automatically?

A. SNAP households with children who were on free or reduced-priced school meals do not need to apply. DHHS will automatically process the P-EBT benefit. These households will receive their P-EBT benefits on their active SNAP EBT card by July 31, 2020 and August 19, 2020.

Q. When will P-EBT benefits be received?

A. P-EBT benefits will be split into two issuances. The first issuance will be available starting July 28, 2020 through July 31, 2020 for the amount of \$141. The second issuance will be available on August 15, 2020 through August 19, 2020 for the amount of \$140. If your child became eligible for free or reduced-priced school meals in April or May, the amounts received will vary depending on the date of eligibility.

Q. Who needs to apply to get their P-EBT benefits?

A. Families with children who received free and reduced-priced meals during the 2019-2020 school years and do not have active SNAP benefits will need to apply. Qualifying families will be contacted by their schools about the program. Families may apply online beginning June 22, 2020 with the P-EBT Application. Free and Reduced-Priced Meal utilization will be verified prior to benefits being issued.



Q. What is the P-EBT Application Process?

A. The online application asks for head of household, address, children's name, school attended, and student ID numbers. Prior to benefit issuance, the utilization of free and reduced-priced lunch during the 2019-2020 school year will be verified. Families will be contacted if verification issues occur.

Key Dates:

- June 22, 2020 through July 19, 2020 – Application for P-EBT benefits is available.
- July 28, 2020 through July 31, 2020 – First P-EBT benefit amount issued to eligible families with active SNAP EBT cards.
- July 28, 2020 – P-EBT cards mailed to eligible families without an active SNAP EBT card. P-EBT benefits will be available when the card is received.
- August 15, 2020 through August 19, 2020 – Second P-EBT benefit amount issued to all families who received the first issuance in July.

If you have questions or need assistance with the P-EBT application, please contact ACCESSNebraska at 1-800-383-4278. When prompted, you will need to select “other Program questions.”

DHHS is working with NDE to establish locations with staff available for assistance with the application. These locations will be updated on www.dhhs.ne.gov.

