

Food Benefits for Families During School Closures

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) provides families financial support to cover the cost of groceries while school is closed. This benefit is provided to ALL families whose children receive free and reduced-price school meals in Oregon.

Who is eligible?

Any household with children who, if not for school closures during the COVID19- outbreak, would be receiving free and reduced-price meals through their school. This includes families with children enrolled in a K12- school, school-based preschool or school-based Headstart that normally participates in the National School Lunch Program. **Families can get both Pandemic EBT and the prepared "grab and go" meals that schools are serving during the pandemic.** P-EBT is also a separate benefit from the emergency extra SNAP benefits being given out right now and families that qualify will receive both. **Immigration status does not matter for Pandemic EBT. Pandemic EBT will not count in a public charge test.**

How much is the benefit?

The benefit is equal to the value of school meals over a month and has nothing to do with if you qualify for the "Free" or the "Reduced" level. Benefits each month are:

March = \$69 per child
April = \$126 per child
May = \$120 per child
June = \$69 per child

How will it work?

Benefits are issued through an EBT card to the head of household. It works just like a debit card to buy groceries. If your family receives SNAP, the Pandemic EBT benefits will be added to the EBT card you already use for SNAP. If your family does not receive SNAP, an EBT card will be mailed to you. Even though Pandemic EBT uses the same type of card as SNAP, Pandemic EBT is NOT SNAP benefits and is not considered in a public charge test.



When will I receive Pandemic EBT benefits?

If your family already receives SNAP, you can expect benefits by the end of May. For families that receive free and reduced price school meals, you can expect benefits by mid-June. Some families that are newly certified could receive benefits as late as July.

What do I do to get Pandemic EBT?

Many Families will automatically get Pandemic EBT.

Already get SNAP? The extra money will be loaded on your Oregon Trail EBT card automatically.

Don't have SNAP, but already qualify for free or reduced school meals? A new EBT card will be automatically mailed to you with instructions. Make sure your school has your updated mailing address. **If your whole school gets free meals, you will qualify too.** Even though Pandemic EBT uses the same type of card as SNAP, Pandemic EBT is **NOT SNAP benefits and is not considered in a public charge test.**

Never received SNAP or free and reduced price school meals before? A simple way to access the P-EBT benefit is by applying for free school meals here: www.ode.state.or.us/apps/frlapp.

Receiving SNAP benefits can also qualify you, here is how to apply:

<https://govstatus.egov.com/or-dhs-benefits>. You will automatically be given Pandemic EBT benefits starting the month you're approved for either free school meals or SNAP.

Who do I contact if I didn't get the additional benefit?

If you did not receive these benefits but believe you qualify, please contact EBTSchoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us

Learn more about the free and reduced price meal benefits here: <https://oregonhunger.org/free-school-meals/>.

Learn more about food resources during the pandemic, including how to apply for SNAP and how to find school meal sites during closures: oregonhunger.org/covid-19 or call 2-1-1