

SNAP Information During COVID-19



Q: How do I apply for SNAP/Food Stamps?

- Apply online at www.benefits.ohio.gov
- Call 1-844-640-OHIO
- Print the application at www.benefits.ohio.gov and return it by mail or at the drop box at your county Department of Job and Family Services office.

Q: I have tried to apply by phone, but I cannot get through.

A: Many people are applying for benefits right now so the phone lines are very busy. Please keep calling, or, if you can, go online to apply. If you apply online, you may want to wait and apply during a time when less people are applying (like later in the evening or early in the morning).

Q: I do not know the answers to all the questions on the application. Can I still apply?

A: Yes. Ohio has changed some rules to make it easier to apply for SNAP right now. Do your best to fill out your application. If Job and Family Services has questions or needs more information, they will contact you.

Q: I was told I have to work to get SNAP. Do I still have to?

A: No. You do not have to participate in work

or job-training programs for SNAP during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q: When my children are in school, and they usually get free breakfast and lunch. Can they still get those meals?

A: Yes. There are places throughout Ohio that offer free breakfast and lunch for pick up. You can find more information on the following websites:

Ohio Department of Education Meal Finder: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus/Supporting-Whole-Child-Nutrition>

Cincinnati Public School Meals: <https://www.cps-k12.org/news/whats-new/cps-continues-provide-free-meals-revised-plan>

You may also be able to get information about this by calling your school or looking at your school's website.

Q: I already get SNAP. My recertification is due in March/April/May. Do I still have to recertify?

A: Not right now. Your SNAP benefits will automatically be extended for 6 months. You should get something in the mail telling you your benefits have been extended. You will be asked to recertify later.

Q: Will Ohio give people more SNAP to help during the pandemic?

A: Yes. Everyone who gets SNAP will be getting extra benefits for March, April and May. For those three months, everyone will get the full amount of benefits allowed for their family size. Your regular SNAP payment will load to your EBT card on your normal load date. Then you get three extra payments (called “mass supplements”). The May extra payment should load around May 22, 2020.

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Maximum SNAP Benefits

AG Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Maximum SNAP Amount	\$194	\$355	\$509	\$646	\$768	\$921	\$1,018	\$1,164

Q: I lost my job. Can I get more SNAP/Food Stamps?

A: Probably. If you lost your job, or are making less money, report this to Job and Family Services as soon as possible. They will use this new information to do a new budget for your SNAP benefit. If you now qualify for more SNAP, your payment will increase. If you are approved for unemployment benefits, you must report this to Job and Family Services.

Q: I am worried about getting sick when I go to the grocery store. Can I use my SNAP benefits to shop online?

A: Maybe. Some stores, including Giant Eagle, Walmart and Kroger stores, have a service where you can choose your groceries online, and pay for them with your EBT card when you pick them up in the store’s parking lot. Check your store’s website or call them to see if they allow EBT payment for this service – not all stores do. You cannot use your EBT card to order groceries online and have them delivered to your house.

If you have questions or need legal assistance, please call the
Legal Aid line at (513) 241-9400