



COVID-19 & Extra Emergency SNAP Benefits: What You Need to Know

The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) is issuing emergency SNAP (food stamp) supplements to many SNAP households to help buy food during the pandemic crisis. Congress approved special SNAP supplement benefits in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Will I get extra SNAP benefits?

If your monthly SNAP benefit is *less than* the maximum SNAP for your household, you will get a supplemental benefit up to the maximum SNAP grant. If you get the maximum SNAP benefit, you will not get extra SNAP. This is because of a decision made by USDA (the federal government), not DTA.

Household size	Max. SNAP
1	\$194
2	\$355
3	\$509
4	\$646
5	\$768
6	\$921
7	\$1,018
8	\$1,164
Each add'l member	+\$146

Examples	
<i>Supplement</i>	<i>No Supplement</i>
Family A gets \$200/mo in SNAP for one adult and 2 kids. This family will get a SNAP supplement of \$309 – boosting SNAP to \$509 (max for 3).	Family B gets \$509/mo in SNAP for one adult and 2 kids. This family will NOT get any extra SNAP , because they already get the max for 3.
Individual A gets \$16/mo in SNAP. This individual will get a supplement of \$178 – boosting SNAP to \$194 (max for 1).	Individual B gets \$194/mo in SNAP. This individual will NOT get any extra SNAP , because they already get the max for 1.

If I qualify for extra SNAP, when will I get it?

- ⇒ Eligible households will get 2 emergency SNAP EBT payments.
- ⇒ On **March 31** extra SNAP payments were put on cards.
- ⇒ In **April** extra SNAP payments will also be made, likely at the end of the month.

How do I learn how much I get in SNAP and if I get extra SNAP?

- DTA will not send you a notice if you get extra SNAP. You may get a text message. Check your balance and your monthly SNAP benefit amount by:
 - Going on the DTA Connect mobile app or DTAConnect.com.
 - Calling the DTA Assistance Line at **877-382-2363**. Enter your SSN/year of birth to hear an automated message with your monthly SNAP amount.

- Call the EBT Customer Service number to check your balance: **800-997-2555** (the number on the back of your EBT card).
- If you have urgent questions for a DTA worker, you can also call the DTA Assistance Line. There may be disconnects due to high call volume or long wait times to speak with a worker.

What if I need help food shopping?

Any member of your household can use the SNAP EBT card to food shop. Their name or picture does NOT need to be on the card. You can also give your EBT card temporarily to a *trusted friend or relative* to food shop for you. The store should not inspect the card or refuse to serve any customer with an EBT card and PIN.

What if I do not get SNAP?

If you are low-income we encourage you to apply. If you are approved, you may also qualify for an extra SNAP payment. To apply:

- The fastest way to apply is to apply **online/on your smartphone** at DTAConnect.com.
- Go to Mass.gov/SNAP to print a paper SNAP application and learn where to send it.
- Call the Project Bread FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333 to apply over the phone.

What if I need meals for my school age children?

While schools are closed, many school districts are providing pre-packaged school meals for children. To find out what your school district is doing and when you can pick up meals, go to: projectbread.org/COVID-19. Also, children who get SNAP or are approved for free or reduced-price meals will get additional EBT benefits, likely in April and/or May. More details to follow.

What other resources can help me?

- DTA COVID-19 information and FAQ: Mass.gov/DTA/COVID-19
- For information for workers who have lost pay: Masslegalservices.org/COVID-19workersandSNAP
- For help with emergency food resources in your community:
 - Call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline: **1-800-645-8333**
 - Call **Mass 2-1-1**
 - Direct info from the Food Bank in your area:
 - Greater Boston Food Bank: GBFB.org/need-food
 - Food Bank of Western MA: Foodbankwma.org/get-help/locate-a-local-feeding-program/
 - Worcester County Food Bank: Foodbank.org/find-food/