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## Latest Updates Regarding COVID-19 & SNAP

### New York State to distribute "Emergency Allotment" SNAP benefit to certain SNAP households in May.

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Emergency Allotments (EA) for SNAP recipients were authorized by Congress under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) previously approved NYS's plan to distribute EA of SNAP benefits in March and April. FNS recently released additional guidance allowing states to continue to provide EA for SNAP recipients in the month of May.

in NYS, nearly 750,000 low-income individuals and families enrolled SNAP will receive the maximum allowable benefit for May to help them avoid food insecurity.

This [Consumer FAQ](#) explains who will receive the May EA supplement benefit and what SNAP clients should know about this supplement SNAP benefit.

Important Highlights include:

- Only households that receive less than the maximum SNAP benefit for their household size in May are eligible for the EA supplement SNAP benefit. It is estimated that about half of all households receive less than the maximum benefit and therefore are eligible for the emergency allotment.
- The EA supplement benefit will be automatically added to the SNAP EBT card of each eligible SNAP household and can be used just like regular SNAP benefits.

- Families and individuals who get SNAP and who are eligible to receive the EA supplement do not need to do anything. SNAP recipients do not need to apply for these benefits, and are being asked not to call their local SNAP office to inquire about the benefit.
- The EA supplement benefit does not need to be spent immediately. Unused SNAP benefits, including the EA supplement, remain available on the EBT card for up to one year from the date they appear on the card.

For more information including dates for benefit distribution across the state, and additional details about the EA SNAP supplement benefit for eligible households go to our [COVID-19 page](#).

#### Read full updates on our COVID-19 Webpage

We will continue to send email updates, post updates to our website, and use Facebook and Twitter to share information. Thank you for your continued efforts to help New Yorkers with needed access to food during this time.



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