

Pandemic EBT

Dawn Sweeney
SNAP State Administrator



Diane Golzynski, PhD, RD
Director, Office of Health and Nutrition Services

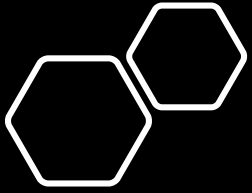




Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) – what is it?

- Brand new program authorized under the Families First Coronavirus Act
 - MDHHS-SNAP is lead, MDE is assisting
- Food benefits for all families with children who were receiving free or reduced meals prior to the crisis
- Approximately 900,000 kids in Michigan





Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) – who?

- Public Schools, Charter Schools, and Non-Public Schools
- CEP – every child
- Migrant, Runaway, homeless, foster
- Early Childhood if directly certified
- Virtual/Cyber
- Special education students 0-26 if eligible



Pandemic EBT Program

Families with children who received free or reduced-cost lunches at school qualify for new program

The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (P-EBT) provides temporary funding to address emergency food needs for families affected by the pandemic.

P-EBT food assistance benefits will go to Michigan families with students ages 5-18 that are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. This includes families currently receiving Food Assistance Program benefits, as well as those not currently enrolled in the program. No application is necessary for eligible families to receive P-EBT benefits.



Families currently receiving Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits will receive additional benefits on their Bridge Card:

Eligible families currently receiving food assistance benefits will be issued additional benefits directly on their Bridge Card. These additional food assistance benefits can be used the same way as families would typically use their Bridge Card to purchase food items. P-EBT benefits can also be used to participate in the Double Up Food Bucks program.

- **March and April combined benefits:** \$193.80 per eligible student will be loaded on the family's Bridge Card by the end of April.
- **May and June combined benefits:** \$182.40 per eligible student will be loaded on the family's Bridge Card on a later date. Issuance schedule for these benefits still to be announced.



Families not currently receiving Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits will receive an EBT card in the mail:

Eligible families not currently receiving food assistance benefits will receive in the mail a pre-loaded Electronic Benefits Transaction (EBT) card issued under the name of the oldest student in the household. Benefits for all eligible school-aged children in the home will be loaded onto this one EBT card. Prior to receiving the card, families will get a letter from MDHHS describing how to use their EBT card, how to set up their PIN, and other information about food assistance benefits. This EBT card can be used to purchase food items only, in-person, at any SNAP retailer. The P-EBT card may look different from the Bridge Card, but the card and benefits can be used the same way as the Bridge Card.

- **March and April combined benefits:** Families will receive an EBT card in the mail by the end of the first week in May. The card will come pre-loaded with \$193.80 per eligible student.
- **May and June combined benefits:** \$182.40 per eligible student will be loaded on the family's EBT card on a later date. Issuance schedule for these benefits still to be announced.



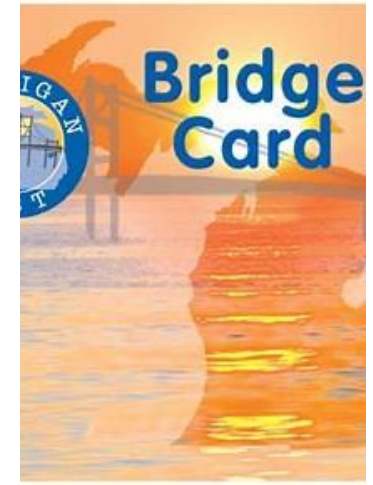
Material produced by the Food Bank Council of Michigan, with information provided by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) – how much and how?

- \$5.70/day that school is closed
- Benefit will be \$190 for March/April and \$180 for May/June per child
 - Expire after 1 year
- Those already receiving SNAP will see benefit added to their bridge cards (benefits started to be loaded 4/17/2020)
- Those not already receiving SNAP will get a card in the mail by end of April



School Meals at Home

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!!

Please read this letter carefully and **keep it until** you get your Bridge (EBT) Card in the mail, which should come in the next 14 days.

We sent you this letter because you will be getting a Bridge Card with food assistance benefits on it, to be used for food items anywhere Bridge Cards are accepted.

You did not apply for these benefits, but you have a child or children in your household who are eligible for free/reduced meals at their school. Because they are not in school right now, we can give you the food benefits to use.

Participation in the program is voluntary. If you choose not to participate in the program, please dispose of your card by cutting through the magnetic stripe on the card and discard the card in a secure manner. You will not be able to redeem the food benefits, nor can you transfer the card to someone else.

If you have any questions, please contact 1-833-905-0028.

Question 1

What happens next?

A pre-loaded Bridge (EBT) Card will come in the mail. The card will be in the *oldest school-aged child's name*, not the parent's name. Please keep the card for ongoing benefits you may receive.

Question 2

How much will be on the card?

The benefit amount for March and April combined is \$193.80 per child and will be available by the end of the first week of May. The benefit amount for May and June combined is \$182.40 per child and will be available by the end of May.

Question 3

How do I activate the card?

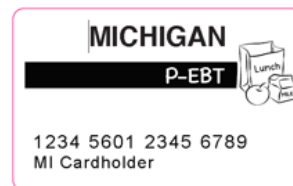
Call the phone number on the back of the card. You will need the EBT card number on the front of the card, your zip code, and the date of birth of the child named on the card. You will need to set a four-digit pin number.

You may be eligible for additional assistance with food, medical insurance, and other MDHHS programs. Apply online at www.Michigan.gov/mibridges.



School Meals at Home

The card you will receive will look like one of the two cards below. Each can be used to purchase food items anywhere Bridge cards are accepted.



Question 4

How do I use the card?

Once activated, the card can be used to purchase eligible food items anywhere Bridge cards are accepted. While the card is in the name of the oldest child in the home, the child does not need to be present when using the card. You will need to use the PIN number you created when activating the card. The card can be used in the point of sale device, just like a debit card or can be handed to the cashier.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) does not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs or disability.

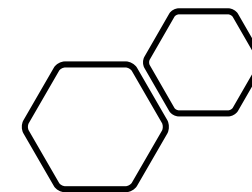


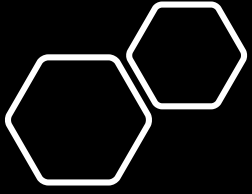
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
235 S. Grand Ave., Suite 1402
Lansing, MI 48933

To the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State ZIP: _____

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) - limitations

- Currently only reaches children eligible for free or reduced meals prior to the pandemic
- Will not capture the children in families who have recently lost jobs/income





Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) – points of interest

- Expectation is Unanticipated School Closure meals will continue
- Benefits do not fall under the Public Charge Rule
- Benefits can be retroactive if MSDS is updated

MEET UP and EAT UP



Questions?

