

KIDS MEALS PROGRAMS AVAILABLE DURING COVID-19 USDA launches new program in Michigan

April 13, 2020- The State of Michigan is the first state approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to launch a new Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program. This program will provide meal assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic to families of the 750,000 children eligible for free or reduced-priced meals.

The Pandemic EBT program is a supplemental food purchasing benefit available to current SNAP participants and to new eligible households with children who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-priced meals due to pandemic-related school closures. This program is set to help offset the cost of meals that would have been consumed at school under normal circumstances.

“USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service is really showing its commitment to keeping Americans safe, secure and healthy during this national emergency,” said Kevin Hughes, Health Officer for DHD#10. “With schools closed for the rest of the year, this program will be especially helpful to families that utilize their school meals program.”

If families need additional services, they are encouraged to contact District Health Department #10’s Community Connection Program at 1-888-217-3904 and select option 3. Community Health Workers are available Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-4:30 pm and will gladly direct residents towards the appropriate resources for their needs.

To learn more about the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) response to COVID-19, visit www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus.

About DHD #10

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Maternal Infant Health Program, Healthy Families of Northern Michigan, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit www.dhd10.org.

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MEDIA CONTACT

Jeannine Taylor
Public Information Officer
O: 231-876-3823
C: 231-920-4998
E: jtaylor@dhd10.org



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