

## State Waiver Request

1. **Waiver Serial Number:**
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Statutory citation:** The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, Section 3(f) and Section 6(c)(1)(D)(i)
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.14(a) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(A)
5. **State:** Virginia
6. **Region:** MARO
7. **Regulatory requirements:** The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 at Section 3(f) requires that the certification period not exceed 12 months, except that the certification period may be up to 24 months if all adult household members are elderly or disabled.

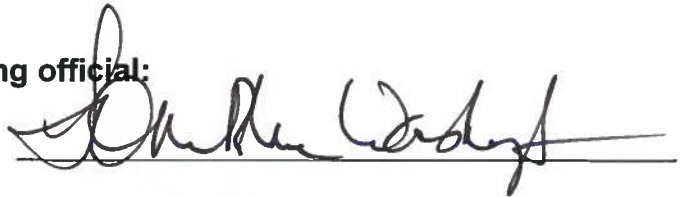
**Section 6(c)(1)(D)(i)** of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 allows the State agency to require households submit periodic reports at least every six months but no more frequent than monthly.

7 CFR 273.14(a) *General*. No household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with §273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period.

7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(A) Submission of periodic reports by non-exempt households. Households that are certified for longer than 6 months, except those households described in §273.12(a)(5)(iii)(A), must file a periodic report between 4 months and 6 months, as required by the State agency. Households in which all adult members are elderly or have a disability with no earned income and are certified for periods lasting between 13 months and 24 months must file a periodic report once a year.

8. **Description of alternative procedures:** Virginia will extend the certification period of households whose certification period ends between April 1, 2020 and July 1, 2020 for three (3) months. Virginia will also suspend the requirement for households to submit a periodic report for (3) months.
9. **Justification for request:** On Friday March 13, 2020 President Trump declared a national state of emergency in response to COVID-19. Virginia is also under a state of emergency as declared by Governor Northam on Tuesday, March 12. All Virginia schools are under a mandatory order of closure for two weeks starting Monday, March 16, 2020. As the adverse impacts of this pandemic continue,

Virginia's immediate plan is to ensure that families do not experience food insecurity as a result. In effort to ensure that households are able to maintain access to food during the COVID-19 pandemic, Virginia is requesting a waiver from the above statutes and regulations. Citizens, especially those at high risk, are being advised to avoid congregate areas to reduce exposure to the virus; local departments are adjusting operations to provide flexibility for staff; and business process and procedures are changing rapidly. This waiver will ensure that there is no adverse harm done to our citizens.

- 10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:**  
Households will experience decreased food insecurity and the risk of exposure to COVID-19 will be reduced. Modifications are needed to the eligibility management system to continue benefit issuance after the certification period end date and suspend closure of cases due to non-receipt of a periodic report.
- 11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affected portion (if applicable):** In January 2020, there were 335,459 SNAP households in Virginia and 683,541 individuals. The state reported QC error rate for FFY 2019 9.52%.
- 12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** March 25, 2020.
- 13. Proposed quality control review procedures:** There is no need for special Quality Control procedures.
- 14. Signature and title of requesting official:**  
  
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- 16. Date of request:** March 13, 2020
- 17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):**  
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