



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

March 20, 2020

Eric Ratchford, Regional Director  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Food and Nutrition Service  
300 Corporate Boulevard  
Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691-1598

Dear Mr. Ratchford:

I am writing to request a waiver of regulations that will allow Virginia a seven day extension on providing EBT cards to eligible households. This will enable us to meet the needs of our participants while following the recommended guidance on social distancing and gatherings with more than 10 people.

The waiver request is enclosed. Please contact Claudia Jackson, SNAP Manager, at (804) 726-7346 or [claudia.jackson@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:claudia.jackson@dss.virginia.gov), if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

*Toni Blue Washington*

Toni Blue Washington, Director  
Division of Benefit Programs

cc: Claudia Jackson

Enclosure

## WAIVER REQUEST

### Timeliness - Extension

1. **Type of Request:** Emergency
2. **Primary Regulation Citation:** 7 CFR 274.2(d)
3. **Secondary Regulation Citation:** N/A
4. **State:** Virginia
5. **FNS Region:** MARO
6. **Regulatory Requirements:** Federal regulations at 7 CFR 274.2 state, in part, that an opportunity to participate consists of providing households with an active EBT card and PIN, and benefits that have been posted to the household's EBT account and are available for spending. State agencies, utilizing a centralized mailing system, must mail EBT cards and PINs, if applicable, in time to assure that the benefits can be spent after they are received but before the 30-day standard expires. For households entitled to expedited service, the state agency shall make benefits available to the household not later than the seventh calendar day following the date of application.
7. **Proposed Alternative Procedures:** The State of Virginia will process cases timely and provide each household with an EBT card through the mail. Due to the pandemic, over the counter cards will not be possible and mailing times may be elongated; therefore, we are requesting a seven-day extension on providing EBT cards to eligible households.
8. **Justification for Request:** Due to the pandemic, over the counter cards will not be possible and mailing times may be elongated.
9. **Anticipated Impact on Households:** This waiver will allow for a possible seven-day delay in receiving their EBT card.
10. **Affected Caseload:** Currently, there are 333,669 households and 679,702 individuals certified to receive SNAP benefits in the affected disaster area(s) listed above. These households receive approximately \$80,495,646 in SNAP benefits per month.

**11. Anticipated Implementation Date:** The waiver is requested to be effective immediately upon approval and will be effective for the months of March, April and May 2020 for March, April and May 2020 benefits.

**12. Proposed Quality Control Procedures:** The proposal does not affect quality control sampling or procedures.

**13. Signature and Title of Requesting Official:**

*Toni Blue Washington*

**Toni Blue Washington**

**Director, Division of Benefit Programs**

**14. Date of Request:** March 20, 2020