

Temporary OFI Policy and Program changes due to COVID 19 (novel coronavirus)

April 6, 2020 – Updated 6/19/20

SNAP – Food Supplement Program – nutrition assistance

- Work requirements are suspended for all recipients.
- Households will receive the maximum possible benefits for April, May, June, and July.
- Reporting and review requirements are extended through June to allow more flexibility to households.
- No interviews will be required through June.
- Generous use of good cause for verification requirements.
- Applications and recertifications can be signed through verbal attestation (over the phone).
- The Worker Supplement Benefit (WSB) will increase from \$50 to \$100 monthly.

MaineCare – Medicaid - medical assistance

- Most child or adult coverage will remain open during the national public health emergency.
- Verbal verification (self-attestation) is allowed for most requirements.
- No premium payments for programs with premiums.

TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – cash assistance for families

- Extensions beyond the lifetime 60 months limit will be granted through the civil emergency.
- Families that have already used 60 months of TANF can reapply and be granted extensions if otherwise eligible.
- No in-person interviews or program orientation will be required.
- No family will be sanctioned during the civil emergency.

Important reminders

- General Assistance hotline number **1-800-442-6003**.
- It is always possible for a SNAP participant to allow another trusted person to use their EBT card to purchase groceries for their SNAP household. That person just needs the card and pin number.
- Stay in touch with OFI online or by phone and report changes to your situation when they occur.

For more on OFI communications, options for applications and the latest program updates:

www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi

For more information on the Department of Health and Human Services coronavirus resources:

www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus-resources.shtml

This document will be updated. Please check back regularly for the latest information.