



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Department of Transitional Assistance**

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**Online Guide Transmittal 2023-20**  
**February 16, 2023**

**To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff**

**From:**  **Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management**

**Re: SNAP: Sunsetting of SNAP Emergency Allotments**

**Overview**

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As part of the Families First Coronavirus Act of 2020, Massachusetts obtained a waiver from FNS to issue SNAP emergency allotments to certain SNAP households each month. The SNAP emergency allotments brought eligible SNAP households up to the maximum benefit level for their household size or a minimum SNAP emergency allotment of \$95 per month.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 enacted by the federal government ended the SNAP emergency allotments effective February 2023, separating them from the end of the federal public health emergency. Most households will receive their last SNAP emergency allotment for the month of February on March 2, 2023. SNAP households who are approved for SNAP towards the end of February and miss the March 2, 2023, SNAP emergency allotment issuance will still receive their February SNAP emergency allotment at a later date. After the SNAP emergency allotment for February 2023 applications are issued, there will be no additional SNAP emergency allotments going forward

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**Purpose**

This Online Guide update is to advise staff that clients will no longer receive SNAP Emergency Allotments after the February 2023 issuance. This will severely impact most SNAP households. Staff must assist clients with maximizing their SNAP benefits and referring them to additional resources.

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**Key Messaging**

To help clients plan for the end of these temporary federal benefits, the state has launched a new website: [www.Mass.gov/ExtraCOVIDSNAP](http://www.Mass.gov/ExtraCOVIDSNAP). The site includes information on these payments, outlines optional expenses clients can claim that may increase their regular monthly SNAP benefits, and provides additional resources for clients.

Clients will receive a notice, the *Federal Extra COVID SNAP* flyer, and text messages regarding the sunset of SNAP emergency allotments. The notice advised clients on how to maximize their SNAP benefit amount if not already at the maximum SNAP benefit amount for their household size. It also advised clients of other resources they can access to assist with household expenses.

Additionally, SNAP households with an elderly/disabled member, not at the maximum monthly SNAP benefit amount for their household size, and not currently receiving a medical expense deduction received the *Out-of-Pocket Medical Expenses* form. This allows clients the opportunity to self-declare medical expenses (for the Standard Medical Deduction) and potentially increase their monthly SNAP benefit amount.

**Please Note:** The medical form that was mailed to clients is entitled *Out-of-Pocket Health Care Costs form*. This is the same form as the *Out-of-Pocket Medical Expenses* form. The name of the form was changed after the mailing was processed.

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**Revised COVID-19 Online Guide Page**

**Book:** COVID-19  
**Book:** SNAP Emergency Allotments  
**Page:** Standardized Procedures for SNAP Emergency Allotments

**Please note: There is no change to the content of this page. The mapping of the page in the Online Guide has changed.**

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**New COVID-19 Online Guide Page**

**Book:** COVID-19  
**Book:** SNAP Emergency Allotments  
**Page:** Sunset of SNAP Emergency Allotments

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**Questions**

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email them to [DTA.Procedural Issues](#).

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.

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