



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


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Commissioner

**Online Guide Transmittal 2021-5
January 21, 2021**

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From:  Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management
Re: SNAP: Update Regarding Online Purchasing Program

Overview

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) allowed states to submit plans to participate in an online purchasing pilot program. This option promotes equity and safety for Massachusetts residents receiving SNAP benefits, as it allows SNAP households access to the same purchasing choices as other shoppers. Massachusetts implemented the online purchasing program effective May 29, 2020.

At implementation, Walmart and Amazon were the only approved retailers.

TAFDC and EAEDC benefits may not be used to make online purchases.

Purpose

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff that ALDI has been added as an approved online retailer in Massachusetts and that additional retailers approved for SNAP online purchasing will be added to [Mass.gov/SNAPonline](https://www.mass.gov/SNAPonline) website.

**New Online
Guide Pages**

Topic:	SNAP
Book:	EBT
Page:	Online Purchasing Program

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.
