



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia to Begin a Staggered SNAP Benefit Schedule *Program changes will boost access to healthy and nutritious food choices*

RICHMOND, Va. (June 26, 2012) – Beginning on September 1, 2012, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) will begin staggering the issuance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, formerly known as food stamps.

Currently, Virginia is one of only nine states to issue SNAP benefits once a month. The new process will expand the issuance of benefits to four times each month.

“This is good news for our customers, because it will increase access to healthy and nutritious foods for their families,” said VDSS Commissioner Martin D. Brown. “Issuing benefits once a month often meant that many items quickly sold out.”

This summer VDSS will send letters to all current SNAP customers in Virginia explaining the new schedule.

“About 60 percent of Virginia’s SNAP customers will initially experience a slight delay during the two month transition period and we’re asking our media partners throughout Virginia for assistance in raising awareness of the benefit schedule change with their audiences,” said VDSS’ Director of Benefit Programs, Thomas Steinhauser.

The new schedule will be based on the last digit of the SNAP recipients’ case numbers:

Case Number	September 2012	October 2012 and after
Case numbers ending in 0, 1, 2, or 3	1 st Day of the Month	1 st Day of the Month
Case numbers ending in 4 or 5	4 th Day of the Month	4 th Day of the Month
Case numbers ending in 6 or 7	4 th Day of the Month	7 th Day of the Month
Case numbers ending in 8 or 9	4 th Day of the Month	9 th Day of the Month

Editor’s Note:

- Please include the .jpg visual of the SNAP letter below in conjunction with this story to emphasize where SNAP customers should look for their case number.
- For more information about this change, SNAP clients can visit the Virginia Department of Social Services web site at www.dss.virginia.gov and click on “SNAP Changes Coming,” or call 2-1-1 for more information.



NOTICE OF CHANGE



Virginia SNAP Client
1234 Virginia Way
Virginia, Virginia 12345

Effective September 2012, the date you receive your SNAP (food stamp) benefits may change.

Currently, all SNAP households receive their benefits on the 1st of each month. Beginning September 2012, SNAP benefits will be issued on 4 days each month. **This new staggered benefit issuance plan will divide recipients into 4 groups using the LAST DIGIT of their CASE NUMBER.**

Beginning September 2012, the new staggered benefit issuance plan will be phased in over two months using the following schedule:

Case Number	September 2012	October 2012 and after
Case numbers ending in 0, 1, 2, or 3	1 st day of month	1 st day of month
Case numbers ending in 4 or 5	4 th day of month	4 th day of month
Case numbers ending in 6 or 7	4 th day of month	7 th day of month
Case numbers ending in 8 or 9	4 th day of month	9 th day of month

Benefits are added at 12:01 AM on the date above, even if that date falls on a weekend or holiday.

Your SNAP case number is: xxxxxxxx

Effective October 2012, your SNAP benefits will be put on your card on the [insert number here] day of each month.

Call 211 or go to www.dss.virginia.gov and click on "SNAP Changes Coming" for more information about this change. *This change applies only to the Virginia EBT or Cardinal Card but not the EPPICard.*

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