

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**  
**Center for Employment & Economic Supports**

**November 26, 2012**

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**TO:** Subscribers

**Suggested Distribution:** Commissioners , TA Directors, SNAP Directors

**FROM:** Phyllis Morris, Acting Deputy Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Extension of Timeframe for Allowing SNAP Purchase of Hot and Prepared Foods at Authorized FNS Retailers in Counties Impacted by Hurricane Sandy

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 3 - December 31, 2012

**CONTACT PERSON:** SNAP Policy Bureau (518) 473-1469

**The timeframe during which hot foods and food products prepared for immediate consumption will be considered “eligible foods”** for purposes of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as long as they are purchased in retail food stores authorized by the Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, for the following counties: Bronx, Kings, Richmond, Queens, New York, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester, Orange, Putnam and Sullivan, **has been extended from November 30, 2012 to December 31, 2012.**

We ask that SSDs assist in informing SNAP clients in these counties that they are able to use their Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card and SNAP benefits to purchase hot foods and prepared food items at authorized SNAP retailers through **Monday, December 31, 2012.**

Please see the attached notice that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has distributed to retailers to inform them about this extension.



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**Food and  
Nutrition  
Service**

3101 Park Center Dr  
Alexandria, VA  
22302-1500

**SPECIAL DISASTER RULES  
FOR ACCEPTING  
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)  
EBT BENEFITS  
FOR HOT FOOD PURCHASES**

**Extension**

Due to Hurricane Sandy, and effective immediately, **retail food stores licensed by the Food and Nutrition Service to accept SNAP benefits in the following counties may accept SNAP benefits in exchange for HOT foods and foods intended to be consumed on retailer premises:**

**Bronx, Brooklyn (Kings), Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island (Richmond),  
Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland, Westchester, Orange, Putnam and Sullivan**

**These special rules are in effect through  
December 31, 2012**

When hot foods are purchased with SNAP EBT benefits through December 31, 2012, the purchases are NOT subject to sales tax, as the foods mentioned above are considered SNAP eligible during this period.

We encourage all SNAP authorized retail food stores in the above counties to post a special notice in the store letting SNAP customers know that they can use their SNAP EBT benefits to purchase hot foods and, where practical, may remain on the premises to consume those foods.

**If you have any questions, please contact the SNAP Retailer Service Center at  
877-823-4369.**

Thank you for your assistance in aiding those impacted by Hurricane Sandy.