



MEPD and TW Bulletin 21-14

Date: July 28, 2021

To: Eligibility Services Supervisors and Staff
Program Managers
Regional Directors
Regional Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
State Office 2115

Subject: COVID-19 Update: Extended Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Certification Periods

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- [Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities Handbook \(MEPDH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins>;
- [Texas Works Handbook \(TWH\)](http://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins) at <http://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins>.

COVID-19 Update: Extended Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Certification Periods

Background

On January 27, 2020, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared that a public health emergency exists nationwide due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Additionally, on March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott also declared a state of disaster for all counties in Texas due to the COVID-19 outbreak. HHSC is providing the following temporary guidance regarding policies and procedures for processing case actions during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

COVID-19 Policy

[Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#)

House Resolution (HR) 8337, Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act, give states the flexibility to extend certification periods for SNAP during the COVID-19 public health emergency. SNAP certification periods due for renewal in September, October and November 2021 will be extended by six months. This policy applies to all SNAP households, including SNAP-SSI and SNAP-CAP Eligibility Determination Groups (EDGs), with recertifications due in September, October and November 2021.

Households with certification periods ending in:

- September 2021 are automatically extended through March 2022;
- October 2021 are automatically extended through April 2022; and
- November 2021 are automatically extended through May 2022.

No action is needed to extend SNAP certification periods. TIERS automation will adjust the recertification due dates for households who receive the extension. TIERS will not send redetermination packets for SNAP renewals due in September, October and November 2021.

Staff Procedures

If a redetermination packet is received:

- and the review has been initiated, continue processing the SNAP redetermination.
- and the review has **not** been initiated, do not initiate the redetermination. These cases will be extended automatically. Review the redetermination packet for reported changes and requests for other programs. Process any

changes in Change Action mode when redetermination packet does not include any requests for new programs.

Automation

TIERS automatically extended active SNAP EDGs with recertifications due in September, October and November 2021 beginning on July 21, 2021.

Correspondence

Households will receive a notice informing them of the extension and their new certification period.

Handbook

Handbook updates are not required.

Training

Training is not required.

Effective Date

This policy is effective with the release of this bulletin for SNAP recertifications due in September, October and November 2021.