



## USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in New York and Pennsylvania

By USDA

(Washington, D.C., May 7, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced New York and Pennsylvania been approved to operate Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), a new program authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), signed by President Trump, which provides assistance to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals dealing with school closures.

New York and Pennsylvania will be able to operate Pandemic EBT, a supplemental food purchasing benefit to current SNAP participants and as a new EBT benefit to other eligible households to offset the cost of meals that would have otherwise been consumed at school. For the 2019-2020 school year, Pennsylvania had approximately 956,000 children eligible for free-and reduced-priced lunch, or approximately 54% of children in participating schools. For the 2019-2020 school year, New York had approximately 2.1 million children eligible for free and reduced-priced lunch, or nearly 72% of children in participating schools.

Under FFCRA, States have the option to submit a plan to the Secretary of Agriculture for providing these benefits to SNAP and non-SNAP households with children who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to pandemic-related school closures. State agencies may operate Pandemic EBT when a school is closed for at least five consecutive days during a public health emergency designation during which the school would otherwise be in session.

The implementation of Pandemic EBT is in line with USDA's commitment to keep Americans safe, secure, and healthy during this national emergency and to keep kids fed when schools are closed. USDA is working with states and local authorities to ensure schools and other program operators can continue to feed children. This latest action complements previously-announced flexibilities for the Child Nutrition programs that:

Allow parents and guardians to pick up meals to bring home to their kids; Temporarily waive meal times requirements to make it easier to pick up multiple-days' worth of meals at once; Allow meals be served in non-congregate settings to support social distancing; Waive the requirement that after-school meals and snacks served through certain programs be accompanied by educational activities to minimize exposure to the novel coronavirus; and Allow states, on an individual state-by-state basis, to serve free meals to children in all areas, rather than only those in areas where at least half of students receive free or reduced-price meals.

This announcement is the latest in a series of actions that USDA's Food and Nutrition Service has taken to uphold the USDA's commitment to "Do Right and Feed Everyone" during this national emergency. Other actions include:

- Launching a new coronavirus webpage to proactively inform the public about USDA's efforts to keep children and families fed;
- Providing more than five million meals a week through public-private partnership Meals to You;
- Increasing access to online purchasing by expanding the online purchasing pilot to more than half of all SNAP households;
- Debuting "Meals for Kids" interactive site finder – to help families find meals for children while schools are closed across more than 38,000 locations;
- Allowing states to issue emergency supplemental SNAP benefits totaling more than \$2 billion per month to increase recipients' purchasing power;
- Collecting solutions to feeding children impacted through [feedingkids@usda.gov](mailto:feedingkids@usda.gov); and
- Providing more than 1,500 administrative flexibilities in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to allow for social distancing.

These actions and more are part of USDA's focus on service during the COVID-19 outbreak. To learn more about FNS's response to COVID-19, visit [www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus](http://www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus).

### GET HELP

Connecting with community services is as easy as dialing 2-1-1.

2-1-1 is a free one-stop information and referral service for Monroe County that provides easy access to human services in our community.

HELPLINE FOR MONROE COUNTY

**2-1-1**  
Get Connected. Get Answers.

**2-1-1 will help eliminate guessing, confusion, and helplessness.**

Services and resources we can help you find:

- Shelters/housing
- Food/clothing
- Rent/utility assistance
- Transportation
- Opioid abuse information
- Early Intervention Services
- Mental health services
- Development
- Legal/consumer
- Credit counseling
- Public assistance programs
- Where to donate food, clothes, furniture, & time
- Aging parent assistance
- Support groups
- And more

(855) 567-5341  
[poconoinfo.org](http://poconoinfo.org)  
[info@poconoinfo.org](mailto:info@poconoinfo.org)



Pocono Mountains  
United Way



## COVID-19 REOPENING PHASES

### WORK & CONGREGATE SETTINGS

### SOCIAL SETTINGS

RED PHASE

- LIFE-SUSTAINING BUSINESSES ONLY
- RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE FOR PRISON + CONGREGATE CARE
- SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION
- MOST CHILD CARE CLOSED

- STAY AT HOME ORDERED
- LARGE GATHERINGS PROHIBITED
- RESTAURANTS/BARS LIMITED TO CARRY-OUT + DELIVERY
- ONLY TRAVEL FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING PURPOSES

YELLOW PHASE

- TELEWORK MUST CONTINUE WHERE FEASIBLE
- BUSINESSES WITH IN-PERSON OPERATIONS MUST FOLLOW SAFETY ORDERS
- CHILD CARE OPEN WITH WORKER + BUILDING SAFETY ORDERS
- RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE FOR PRISON + CONGREGATE CARE
- SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

- STAY AT HOME RESTRICTIONS LIFTED IN FAVOR OF AGGRESSIVE MITIGATION
- LARGE GATHERINGS PROHIBITED
- IN-PERSON RETAIL ALLOWED CURBSIDE/DELIVERY PREFERRED
- INDOOR RECREATION, HEALTH AND WELLNESS FACILITIES (SUCH AS GYMS, SPAS), AND ALL ENTERTAINMENT (SUCH AS CASINOS, THEATERS) REMAIN CLOSED
- RESTAURANTS/BARS LIMITED TO CARRY-OUT + DELIVERY

GREEN PHASE

- ALL BUSINESSES MUST FOLLOW CDC AND PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDELINES

- AGGRESSIVE MITIGATION ORDERS LIFTED
- INDIVIDUALS MUST FOLLOW CDC AND PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDELINES

# Please Contact Your Church For any Cancellations Due To The Corona Virus

## NOTICE

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE  
**EMAILED ONLY TO**  
**BVTIMES@RCN.COM**  
**BY FRIDAYS NOON**

**Ackermanville United Methodist**  
**1410 Ackermanville Road, Bangor**  
 Sun 10am Worship. Rev. Sukja Bang  
 (610) 588-7818,  
 www.ackermanvilleumc.org

**Bangor Church of the Nazarene**  
**150 Bunny Trail, Bangor**  
 Sun 9:30am SS, 10:40am Worship  
 (Children's Church to grade 2), 5pm  
 Powerhouse Praise Practice, 6pm Teen  
 Straight Talk & Small Groups. Kenneth  
 L. Bean, Pastor  
 (610) 588-6929

## Belfast Bible

**483 Belfast Rd., Belfast**

Sunday School (all ages) 9:30am, Wor-  
 ship 10:45am, Evening Service 7pm.  
 Pastor Michael Yaworski.

**Belfast Wesley United Methodist**  
**607 School St., Belfast**  
 Children's SS & Adult SS 9am, Wor-  
 ship 10am, coffee fellowship following  
 worship. Pastor Paul Milligan. (610)  
 746-3652.

**Benders Mennonite Church**  
**975 Benders Church Rd., Pen Argyl**  
 Sun Worship service every Sunday at  
 10:10am; Food Bank 3rd Saturday of  
 the month 9-11am. 610-863-9114.

**Bethel Bible Church of Mt. Zion**  
**7742 N. Delaware Dr. (Rt. 611),  
 Martins Creek**  
 Free Bread Every Saturday, 3eryone  
 welcome, questions 908-483-8231;  
 Sunday School 9am, Sunday Morning  
 Worship 10am. Pastor Rick Tunis, 610-  
 250-9890. Learn about us online  
 www.bethelbiblechurchofmtzion.org.

**Christ Presbyterian Church**  
**of the Slate Belt**  
 332 Kennedy Dr., Bangor  
 Sun.-Worship 10:30 a.m. Rev Albert Martin  
 (610)588-4864  
 e mail - presbyterianbr@frontiernet.net  
 www.facebook.com/Presbyterybr

**Christ Ev. Lutheran Church**  
**703 South Delaware Drive**  
 Mt Bethel, PA 18343  
 610-588-7056  
 The Rev. Larry Laine  
 Worship at 9 AM  
 Sunday School 10 AM

**Clearfield Bible Holiness Church**  
**1502 Bushkill Ctr Rd, Wind Gap**  
 Sun- SS 10:15am, Worship 11:15am &  
 3pm. Pastor Donald Herrick.  
 (812) 653-3975.

**Community Baptist**  
**Weona Park Center, Pen Argyl**  
 Sun - Bible study 7pm. Separate  
 class for age 10 & under.

**Community Presbyterian**  
**1755 S Delaware Drive, Mt. Bethel**  
 Sun. - SS 9:15am, Worship service  
 10:30am, Coffee hour on last sunday of  
 every month following service.  
 www.mtbethelpresbyterian.org,  
 (570) 897-6766.

**Cross Road Baptist Church**  
**201 Second St., Bangor**  
 Sun- 9:15am Praise Sing, 9:30am SS,  
 10:45am Worship; Wed- 7pm Prayer/  
 Bible Study. Rev. Jay VanHorn, Pastor  
 (610) 588-3966,  
 www.crossroadbaptistbangor.org

**The Lady's Guild of Our Lady of Vic-  
 tory R.C. Church, Tannersville** will hold  
 a Chicken Cordon Blue Dinner on April  
 28th. We would appreciate your help  
 in advertising this year's event without  
 cost to the church.

**EAST BANGOR UNITED METHODIST**  
**COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**136 W. Central Ave.**  
**East Bangor, PA 18013**  
 Sun., May 17 - 10:00 a.m. Worship  
 Service (Online) Tues., May 19  
 - 7:00 p.m. Bible Study CANCELLED  
 FOR MORE INFO., CONTACT  
 eastbangorumc@gmail.com  
 Pastor Dave Goss  
 (610-588-4453) Dial-A-Message  
 (610-588-3896) www.ebumc.org

**Faith Alive Community Church**  
**10 Mechanic St, Wind Gap**  
 Tues- 6pm Ladies Prayer Meeting (2nd  
 Tues); Wed- 6:30pm Revival Prayer,  
 7:15pm Adult Bible Study; Sat- 10-2pm  
 Prayer Stop (1st Sat); Sun- 9:15am  
 Family Fellowship, 9:30am Interces-  
 sory Prayer, 10am Worship, 10:45am  
 Children's Church, Communion at  
 10:30am (1st Sun). Pastor Matthew  
 Whistler. (610) 863-6911,  
 www.faccpa.org

**Family Life Community Church**  
**1115 Richmond Rd, Bangor**  
 Wed- Kidz Night Out at The Hub 6:30-  
 8pm (kids 6 thru 6th gr.); Thurs- Teen  
 Night Out at The Hub 6:30-8pm (gr.  
 7-9); Sun- 10am Celebration Service.  
 Pastor Mike Poppa. 610-588-3736,  
 www.flccbangor.com.

**First United Evangelical**  
**25 S 2nd St., Bangor**  
 Sun. - 7pm Prayer Meeting & Bible  
 Study; Jan 20- 9am Prayer Meeting,  
 9:30am Church School, 10:30am Wor-  
 ship. Pastor Ronald Shipman at  
 (610) 588-3226

**First United Methodist Church**  
**55 N. Third St., Bangor**  
 Worship every Sunday at 11am, Adult  
 and Children Sunday Schools 9:45am,  
 Communion first Sunday of month,  
 Wednesday evening Bible Study  
 6:30pm. Pastor Chris Hardy  
 (610) 588-4673.

**First United Methodist**  
**19 West & Water St., Wind Gap**

Sun.- 9am SS, 10am Worship/Commu-  
 nion, 11am Fellowship on 1st Sunday of  
 each month. Pastor John Vidal  
 (570) 426-0645

**Flicksville United Church of Christ**  
 1337 Lower South Main Street  
 Bangor, PA 18013  
 Pastor Ken Hess  
 610-588-4648  
 www.flicksvilleucc.com  
 Sunday School at 9:30 AM  
 Worship at 10:45 AM  
 All are welcome!

**God's Missionary Church**  
**of Northampton**  
**4965 Nor. Bath Blvd (Rt 329),  
 Northampton, PA**  
 Sun- SS 9:30am, Service 10:30 & 7pm,  
 Youth Service 6:30pm; Wed- Prayer  
 Meeting 7:30pm. Rev. Rodney Keister.  
 (610) 262-4412.  
 http://GMC-N.com

**Good Shepherd Evangelical**  
**Lutheran Church,**  
**2904 Church Rd, Martins Creek PA**  
 Sunday Worship Service 9:00 am. Adult  
 Bible Study Following Worship. Pastor  
 Louise Williams.  
 www.goodshepherdmc.com

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**5907 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth**  
 Tue. - 6:30pm Choir; Jan 20- 9am  
 Service/Communion, 10:15am SS,  
 10:30am Confirmation/Adult Forum.  
 (610) 759-9080, www.gracebelfast.org

**Grace United Methodist**  
**404 Mountain Ave., Pen Argyl**  
 Sun.- 8:30am Contemporary, 10am  
 Blended, 10am SS. Rev. J. Timothy  
 Fisher. (610) 863-4811. www.worshipat-  
 grace.org

**Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**  
**1501 Trinity Court, Stroudsburg**  
 Divine Liturgy Sundays 9:30 AM;  
 Vespers Saturday 6:30 PM. (570) 421-  
 4455, www.holytrinitypoconos.org.

**Hopesprings Community of Faith**  
**301 Market Street, Bangor**  
 Sun-Services 10am. Jonathan Alman-  
 zar, Lead Pastor. 855-INFO-HOPE.  
 www.hopespringscommunity.org.

**Hope UCC**  
**2nd & Cherry St., Wind Gap**  
 Sun- 10:30am Worship (Communion  
 1st Sunday of the month). All are wel-  
 come! SS 9:30 Sunday Morning.  
 Pastor Emily B. Hall. (610) 863-4474

**Living Waters Christian Church**  
**396 Sterling Rd. Unit D, Tobyhanna**  
 Thurs- 6pm Christian Edu Sun- 9:15am  
 Christian Edu, 10:30am Worship. Rev.  
 Dr. Jacqueline R. Walters  
 570-350-4710

**Mt. Bethel Church**  
**A Church of the Lutheran Brethren**  
**1270 Belvidere Cr. Rd, Mt. Bethel**  
 Sun.- 8:30am Traditional Service ,

11am Contemporary Service Visit our  
 website www.mountbethelchurch.org or  
 call (570) 897-7142 for info.

**Our Lady of Good Counsel**  
 436 South 2nd Street  
 Bangor, PA 18013  
 Rectory (610) 588-5445  
 Parish Website: www.ourladystvincent.  
 com Mass Schedule  
 Weekdays 8AM excluding Thursdays  
 (See Church Website)  
 Saturday 4 PM Sunday 8:30 AM  
 Holy Days (See Church Website)  
 Saturday Confessions 3:25-3:45 PM

**Our Lady of Victory R.C. Church,**  
 Tannersville, PA will hold a Free Com-  
 munity Dinner on Sunday, July 21st  
 from 3pm to 4pm. They would appreci-  
 ate your assistance in advertising this  
 dinner without cost to the Church.

**Portland Baptist Church**  
**601 Delaware Ave., Portland**  
 Sun- Sunday School 9am, Service  
 10:30am; Wed- Bible Study 10:30 with  
 Prayer Meeting to follow. Elevator and  
 rampsWe are handicap accessible with  
 automatic doors, elevator and restroom.  
 (570) 897-6866  
 www.portlandbaptistchurch.com

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
**2445 Lake Minsi Dr., Bangor**  
 Saturday Worship: 1st & 3rd 5:30 pm.  
 Sunday School starts at 8:30am  
 (September-May )  
 Sunday Service- 9:45am  
 Holy Communion is served weekly.  
 All are welcome!

**Richmond United Methodist Church**  
**8538 Delaware Dr, Bangor**  
 Palm Sunday, worship at 10:00 am.  
 Maundy Thursday, Soup at 6:00 pm  
 and Worship at 7:00 pm. Good Friday  
 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm for Personal  
 Meditation, Devotion and Prayer  
 Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 am  
 (followed by breakfast) Easter Tradi-  
 tional Worship 10:00 am Rev. Ed Van  
 Arsdale 610-588-7317

**Slate Belt Church**  
**1620 Church Rd, Pen Argyl**  
 (Across from the Wind Gap Middle School)  
 www.slatebeltchurch.com  
 Sun.- 9:30am SS, 10:30am Worship &  
 Children's Church (nursery provided)  
 5:30pm Bible Study, Youth Group & Kids  
 Program Pastor Steve Rebert  
 610-863-9274

**St. Brigid's Episcopal Church, Nazareth.**  
 Delete Sunday school Holy Eucharist @  
 9:30 a.m. St. Brigid's Episcopal Church  
 310 Madison Avenue Nazareth, PA 18064  
 Phone: 610-746-3910 Fax: 610-746-4515

**St. Elizabeth's Parish**  
**300 West Babbitt Ave., Pen Argyl**  
 Sun.- Masses 8am, 9:30am & 11am. Rev.  
 Msgr. Vincent P. York.  
 610-863-4777

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran**  
**12 N. Westbrook, Pen Argyl**

Sun.- 8:45am SS, 10am Worship/Holy  
 Communion. (610) 863-4332

**St. Joseph's Episcopal**  
**1440 Verona Dr., W. Bangor**  
 Jan 20- Eucharist 11am; Christmas Eve  
 Service 4pm. Rev Joel Atkinson. Coffee  
 hour after service.  
**St. Luke's U.C.C. Belfast**  
**471 Belfast Rd., Nazareth (Belfast)**  
 SS 9am, Worship 10:30am. Rev. Cecelia  
 Baxter and Rev. Jameson Baxter.  
 610-759-0244.  
 www.stlukesuccbelfast.com

**St. Mary's Episcopal**  
**340 Lehigh St., Wind Gap**  
 Sun.- service 9am. Coffee hour follows  
 service. Rev. Joel Atkinson.  
 Maundy Thursday Service will be held  
 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church Wind  
 Gap at 5:30 P.M. Easter Morning Ser-  
 vice will be held at St. Mary's Episcopal  
 Church Wind Gap at 9:00 a.m.

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran**  
**1422 Church Rd, Pen Argyl**  
 (610) 863-6859  
 Sunday Worship/Communion  
 8am and 10:15am;  
 9am SS  
 www.stpetersplainfield.com

**St. Vincent dePaul**  
 720 Delaware Avenue  
 Portland, PA 18351  
 Rectory (610) 588-5445  
 Mass Schedule Weekdays (at OLCG)  
 Saturday 6 PM Sunday 10:30 AM  
 Holy Days (See Church Website)  
 Saturday Confessions 5:40-5:50 PM

**The Pentecostal Christian**  
**Church the Truth**  
**(Iglesia Pentecostal La Verdad)**  
**4 Jory Ave Pen Argyl**  
 Sun.- Prayer 14- Sunday School  
 (Escuela Dominical) 12 noon, Praise &  
 Worrship (Cuho Evangelistico) 1pm.

**Temple Israel of the Poconos**  
**Egalitarian Conservative Synagogue**  
**660 Wallace Street, Stroudsburg**  
 Sabbath Services: Friday evening 7pm  
 followed by a Traditional Oneg Shabbat.  
 Saturday morning 9:30am followed by a  
 traditional Kiddush. Dr. Sandra Alfonsi  
 570-223-7062.

**Trinity United Church of Christ**  
 632 S Delaware Dr. Mt Bethel Pa  
 18343 Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
 SS and Confirmation 9:00 am  
 Rev. Rodney Wells pastor

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran**  
**404 Broadway, Bangor**  
 Thur - Christian Ed 6:30pm, Choir  
 7:30pm; Jan 20- SS 9am, Worship/  
 Communion 10am. Pastor Laine. (610)  
 588-2023, www.tlcbangor.com.

**Zion Presbyterian Church**  
**Water St., Wind Gap**  
 Sun.- Rev. Albert Martin will be speak-  
 ing at the 9:30am service. Children SS  
 during the service. Visitors welcome.  
 (610) 863-8896.