

While schools are closed due to COVID-19, North Carolina's Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program provides extra help to families buying groceries whose children normally receive free and reduced price lunch at school.

### Step 1 Get your P-EBT card in the mail.

If you have a child who normally receives free or reduced price lunch at school and they are not enrolled in the Food and Nutrition Services program, your P-EBT card should arrive in the mail during May.

### Step 2 Activate your card.

There are three different ways to activate your card:

1. Go to [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com). Click "More Information" under EBT Cardholder. Login and/or register your account.
2. Download the ebtEDGE mobile app. The app is available through the Apple Store or Google Play.
3. Call 1-888-622-7328. Follow the prompts to activate your card.

### Step 3 Enter your activation code.

Your code is the birth date of your youngest school-age child. Enter the date of birth using two digits for the month, two digits for the day, and four digits for the year.

*Note: If there are multiple children in your household it may be necessary to try each child's date of birth to successfully activate your P-EBT card.*

**Example: for  
June 1, 2008 you  
would type in**

**06012008**

### Step 4 Create your PIN.

Select a four-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) that you will use going forward to check your balance or use your card. Keep this number private.

### Step 5 Use your card.

Use your P-EBT card to purchase food items at EBT authorized retailers, including most major grocery stores. When you go through a checkout line, you will pass or "swipe" the P-EBT card through the machine just like a typical bank debit card and enter your PIN. The cost of the food is automatically subtracted from your P-EBT account balance.