

# New Cash Benefits for School Meals

## Families impacted by pandemic get extra help

The Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Department of Education announced this month that the USDA Food and Nutrition Service authorized DHS to provide Oregon P-EBT Pandemic School Meal Replacement Benefits to more than 351,000 students receiving free or reduced-price school meals in Oregon, including almost 147,000 students already receiving nutrition assistance.

Households will receive benefits equivalent to one free lunch and one free breakfast for each eligible child – \$5.70 per normal school day for the months of March, April, May and June.

The benefits will support student's nutritional needs during a time of crisis and uncertainty, said Dustin Melton, director of the state's child nutrition programs.

Oregon families with children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals will get the cash benefits for the meals they would have received



Families with children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals will now be getting cash benefits applied to EPT cards for the meals they would have received at schools that are closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

at school even if they have been accessing meals from schools during the closure, officials said.

Eligible Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households will have their March, April and May benefits automatically deposited to their existing Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) accounts by the end of May, officials said. Students who get free or reduced-price school meals from

the Oregon Department of Human Services but do not receive SNAP benefits will automatically receive an Oregon Trail Card in the mail.

Families who have experienced significant income loss also become eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, and there is still time to apply. Apply online at [ode.state.or.us/apps/FRLApp/Default](http://ode.state.or.us/apps/FRLApp/Default) or contact your local school.



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## Test ASAP

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shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell.

"It's important that people get tested as soon as they begin experiencing COVID-19 symptoms," said Dr. Alan Melnick,

Clark County health officer and Public Health director. "Early testing and identification of cases enables Public Health to isolate those who are sick and quarantine their close contacts. Doing this as early as possible will help us to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community."

Most health care facilities now offer COVID-19 testing. Testing

should come at no cost to the patient, whether they have insurance or not. The Washington state insurance commissioner is requiring insurers to waive co-pays and deductibles for COVID-19 testing.

For additional information about COVID-19 in Clark County, visit [clark.wa.gov/public-health/novel-coronavirus](http://clark.wa.gov/public-health/novel-coronavirus).

## Obituary

### In Loving Memory

Mary Joyce Brannon  
July 29, 1931 -- May 11, 2020

Mary Joyce Brannon was born in Northeast Texas in the small town of Daingerfield to Herman and Ida Gilstrap in 1931.

She attended school in Texas and graduated from Rhodes High School a year ahead of time. She attended Bishop College, which is where she met her future husband, Harel Brannon.

After marrying, Harel was drafted into the military. While enlisted, he visited Oregon and fell in love with this side of the country. After Harel was honorably discharged from the military, they moved to Portland. Upon moving to the area, Mary said it "rained inside and outside" and she was not immediately fond of the city. However, the rainy season ended and Mary began to like and even love Oregon.

Mary had a long career in education, teaching in the primary grades for Portland Public Schools. After retiring, she enjoyed participating in social groups, travelling, going to church, and shopping

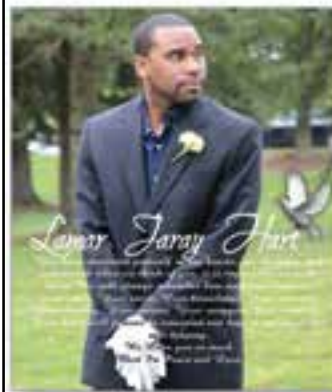
with her dear friend Jeannette Allen who drove her to church every Sunday.

Mary will be missed dearly, as everyone who came in contact with her said she was a sweet and wonderful lady. Her family fondly referred to her as "Queen B." She will be missed by all who knew her.

Mary is survived by her sons, James Brannon (Linda Brannon, daughter-in-law) and Michael Brannon; sister Verda Allen, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, grandchildren, family and numerous friends.



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