

Increased food benefits for Oregonians through SNAP begin this month

The Oregon Department of Human Services has received approval by the federal Food and Nutrition Service to continue in August to provide increased food benefits and waive the interview requirement for new applicants — making it faster and easier for Oregonians to access benefits.

This will result in an additional \$30 million to eligible Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

recipients in August 2020.

“As the pandemic continues, access to food has worsened greatly,” said Self-Sufficiency Programs Deputy Director Claire Seguin. “Providing another month of emergency assistance will help ease the threat of chronic hunger in Oregon.”

SNAP households will automatically receive the additional allotment in the same way they receive their

current benefits. For most customers this is an EBT card. The additional benefit amount will be disbursed on the schedule below to all eligible SNAP households.

- Aug. 11: Current SNAP households not receiving the SNAP maximum allotment

- Aug. 29: New SNAP customers who did not receive the Aug. 11 allotment and are not receiving the maximum benefit

No additional action is needed from Oregonians already enrolled in SNAP. The increase brings all households to the maximum SNAP benefit. Households that already receive the maximum benefit will not receive any additional benefits.

The table below shows the maximum SNAP benefits based on the number of eligible people in the household, with household size

and max SNAP benefit:

- Family of 1, \$194
- Family of 2, \$355
- Family of 3, \$509
- Family of 4, \$646
- Family of 5, \$768
- Each additional person receives +\$146

This allotment will not permanently change a household's monthly benefit amount. It is a temporary supplement to help during the current health crisis. The Department of Human

Services will not be sending individual notices to households about the emergency allotments.

In addition, Oregon received approval to continue to waive the requirement to complete an interview for new SNAP applicants.

Learn how to apply for SNAP and other benefits online at www.oregon.gov/DHS/COVID-19/Pages/Home.aspx.

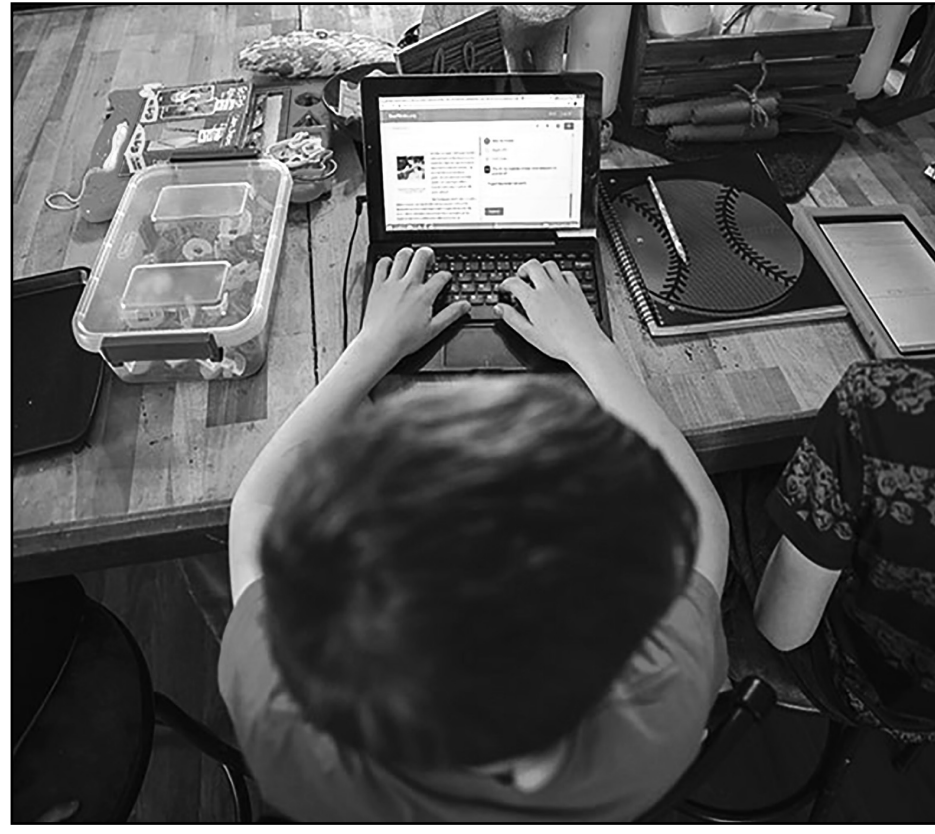
Schools from A1

that the rate was 5.1, though it was as high as 7 the week prior. It's also dipped as low as 4.6 percent. But even if the positivity rate declines to 5 percent, it could spike up again, resetting the whole process.

Where school districts like South Lane stand today, they won't get three weeks of data until Aug. 15 at the earliest — and that is a few days after the deadline given to districts to turn in reopening plans to Lane County for approval — which included start dates.

As for when onsite learning can begin, many schools are taking a measured approach in order to avoid a cycle of “in-and-out” schooling.

This could mean onsite learning being delayed until October at the earliest. If the metrics aren't met by then



COURTESY IMAGE

Under the latest metrics instituted by the state, only grades K-3 could currently be eligible to return to school in September, with all other grades likely not returning to classrooms until at least October.

— which also happens to be the official start of flu season — it's possible that the district would not return to in-class instruction until 2021.

If there's one excep-

tion to the rule, it could be for students in kindergarten to third grade which, at the end of the new metrics, the state listed as an exception. Students in that grade

range could be on campus if COVID-19 is not spreading in the community, if the county case rates are less than 30 for the last three weeks, and county test positive

ty is 5 percent or less.

Current county numbers would allow for this scenario, which would see grades K-3 spread out throughout an entire elementary school. Social distancing would be easier with the populations of grades four and five at home. However, the state was vague in this guideline. While it listed specifics for county metrics, it doesn't mention the county overriding the state metric. Could the state metric play into the K-3 exception? So far, that question has yet to be answered.

Either way, this school year, distance education will look far different

compared to last, where different programs were stitched together at the last minute when the governor closed schools in March.

Gov. Kate Brown has also released \$20 million in funds for districts around the state to help pay for connectivity. With all the changes, the currently shifting landscape of reopening has been frustrating for many parents who are still unsure as to what the rapidly approaching school year will look like. And with so many different factors at play, it's possible that decisions now could change within weeks.

EMERALD VALLEY ARMORY, LLC

**Handguns
Long Rifles
Concealed carry classes**

Call for Schedules

Tues. - Sat. 10-6 pm

147 W. Oregon Ave. Creswell, OR 97426

541-895-2666

PC GARAGE

Complete tech, networking, security and IT solutions for your home or business.

SALES, SERVICE & REPAIRS

711 E. Main Street | Cottage Grove
541-649-1073 | www.pcgargageoregon.com

Like us on Facebook

Dave's Dump & Const Inc.

Licensed Bonded Insured CCB #121272

541-726-7689 Eugene/Springfield

541-942-9635 Cottage Grove

Let us help you select the right wood flooring for any room!
Stop by our showroom for a free design consultation and estimate.

An Unparalleled Selection of Quality Wood Flooring

Natural Hardwood | Engineered Hardwood
Pine Flooring | Sustainable Bamboo
Distressed Hardwood | Vinyl | Tile

Rogers and Son Floor Covering

1324 E. Main St. | Cottage Grove
541-942-0500 | rogersandsonfloorcovering.com

GROVE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

“BUILDING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY”

YOUR LOCAL PROVIDER OF HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT!

Sales & Rentals, Insurance Billing, CPAP/BIPAP, Home Oxygen, Mobility, Walk Aids, Bath Aides, Power Chairs, Power Scooters, Aids to Daily Living. Friendly & Knowledgeable Staff

**148 Gateway Blvd (Bi Mart Plaza)
Cottage Grove, OR 97424**

541-225-5443

grovemmedical@outlook.com Find us on Facebook

We'll make sure your system is running effectively and efficiently. Call for details and an appointment today, and beat the spring rush!

Complete Heating & Cooling System Service
Reasonable Rates
All Work Guaranteed

JAMIES HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

www.jamesheating.com
115 Lawrence St., Eugene, OR 97401
CCB# 47396 • 542-461-2101

COVID-19 TESTING AVAILABLE

Schedule your screening today.
Call 541.225.4997 or visit NovaCovidTest.com

nova HEALTH

Caring in Action

HOME PRIDE Painting and Repair LLC

Over 30 years of experience

Schedule Now For Fall Interior Painting

Get ahead of the crowd!
Now is a good time to schedule for Spring and Summer 2022 exterior repaints

Call us for a Free Quote!

“We do small remodels, home repairs and decks!”

Serving Lane & North Douglas Counties

541-735-0089

ccb# 217560

Cottage Grove Sentinel Introduces...

GUARANTEED HOME SALES

Moving is one of the most stressful things we do in life, now add to it selling your house! We want to help you with our new...

Real Estate Insurance Package!
We will run your online ad until it sells, for one low price.

Guaranteed Home Sale Package Includes:

- ✓ 50 Words + Photo under featured Homes for sale page online
- ✓ 50 word ad under classifieds online.
- ✓ Over 21,000* unique visitors online.
- ✓ Only \$50** and it runs until its sold.

Normal price is \$45 for 4 issues, insurance is only \$5.

Weekly feature for an additional \$20/per week limit one listing

Cottage Grove Classified MARKETPLACE
“Your 1 stop place to buy & sell real estate in the region”

Call Today **541.942.3325**
cgsentinel.com

Cottage Grove **Sentinel**

* Nov '18-Jan '19 **Must be paid at time of placement