

# SNAP waiver expands options for food benefits in Lane, Douglas counties

A waiver approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) allows Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Disaster SNAP recipients in the Lane and Douglas counties, as well as the 21 other counties to purchase hot or prepared foods from authorized SNAP retailers until Nov. 20.

Other counties include

Benton, Clackamas, Columbia Coos, Curry, Deschutes, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, Washington and Yamhill.

Normally, SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase "hot food products prepared for immediate consumption." This restriction is being waived

following the severe winds and wildfires that led to the displacement of many residents and left them without access to a kitchen to prepare meals.

Examples of allowable prepared foods include hot deli foods, fountain drinks, including but not limited to coffee and tea, a slice of hot/prepared pizza, hot soup, salad bars, and sandwiches.

This waiver will last through Nov. 20 and allows SNAP and DSNAP recipients to use their benefits to buy prepared food at any participating retailer that accepts SNAP EBT cards. Restaurant purchases are still prohibited.

For more information about the hot food waiver, visit [www.oregon.gov/dhs/ASSISTANCE/FOOD-BENEFITS/Pages/](http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/ASSISTANCE/FOOD-BENEFITS/Pages/)

DSNAP-Hot-Foods-Waiver.aspx.

## Emergency Allotment Update:

Oregon also received approval from FNS to provide maximum emergency allotment benefits for SNAP recipients in November. The emergency allotments, see schedule below, will bring families not receiving the maximum SNAP allotment for their house-

hold size to the maximum for the seventh consecutive month.

Issuance date (SNAP recipients will see the benefit the following day)

- Nov. 10: Current SNAP households not receiving the SNAP maximum allotment

- Nov. 27: New SNAP recipients between Nov. 10 and Nov. 27

## Pilot from A1

Energy Trust is encouraging applicants to work with one of the nonprofit's trade ally contractors, which are listed on the website, in order to ensure qualifications are met.

Incentive applications must then be submitted within 60 days of installation.

For residents, the program is offering incentives such as a \$1,000 gas furnace rebate, up to \$8 per square foot for Energy Star windows and rebates on

wall, attic and floor insulation.

While energy-efficient investments can decrease residents' utility bills, they may also help communities meet growth demands by reducing the need for gas companies such as NW Natural to invest in costly

infrastructure upgrades, effectively allowing companies to maintain output with existing equipment.

Depending on results, similar future programs may pop up in the region, focusing on small communities which can offer higher incentives.

The program is set to run until July 31, 2021.

For pre-qualification and to help confirm a home's eligibility, call 1-866-311-1811 or email [residential@energytrust.org](mailto:residential@energytrust.org).

More information can be found by visiting online at [www.energytrust.org/incentives/increased-incentives-for-select-nw-natural-customers](http://www.energytrust.org/incentives/increased-incentives-for-select-nw-natural-customers).

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# Halloween SAFETY 2020

With traditional Halloween activities like indoor parties and trick-or-treating posing an increased risk for COVID-19 spread, the CDC recommends the following activity guidelines for safer celebrating this year:

## Low-Risk HALLOWEEN Fun

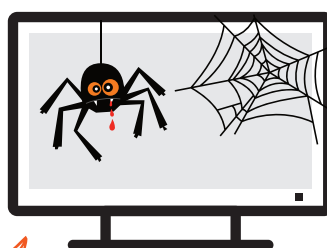


**Carve or decorate pumpkins with members of your household.** If you carve pumpkins with neighbors or friends, do so outdoors at a safe distance wearing masks.



Host a virtual costume contest or party.

Have some fun crafting decorations and dressing up your home.



Enjoy a Halloween movie night at home with spooky snacks.



Create a "candy hunt" by hiding treats throughout the house or yard.

Plan a Halloween scavenger hunt. Give your kids a list of Halloween-themed things to search for while you walk the neighborhood admiring Halloween decorations at a distance.



### Trick-or-Treating

Set up one-way trick-or-treating with individually wrapped goodie bags lined up at the edge of your driveway or lawn for families to pick up while maintaining a safe distance. Be sure to wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after preparing goodie bags.

## Moderate-Risk ACTIVITIES

If you decide to participate in these activities, here are some tips to help protect your family and others:

### Outdoor Parties & Parades

- Stay outdoors in the open air.
- Limit the number of participants to a small group.
- Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between people at all times.
- Wear protective masks. A costume mask should not be used to replace a protective mask, unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric, covers the mouth and nose, and leaves no gaps around the face. Wearing a costume mask over a protective cloth mask can make it difficult to breathe, so consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask instead.

### Haunted Trails

- Make sure these are one-way outdoor activities.
- Make sure protective masks and social distancing are enforced.
- If screaming is likely to occur, distancing of more than 6 feet between people is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.

### Pumpkin Patches & Orchards

- Use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples.
- Wear a mask and practice social distancing.

The CDC recommends avoiding high-risk activities like traditional trick-or-treating, trunk-or-treat events, indoor parties, and haunted houses and hayrides. Please remember, if you feel ill or may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, avoid in-person Halloween activities and do not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

**GABRIELE WELLNESS CENTER**  
502 E Whiteaker Avenue  
541-649-1450

**GOODWILL INDUSTRIES**  
1205 Hwy, 99 N  
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