

## **EBT online purchasing program**

On May 1, 2020, the federal government approved Minnesota's request to allow households that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) food benefits to purchase eligible food items with their EBT food benefits online. Participants statewide are now able to order online from the three retailers currently authorized to accept EBT food benefits in Minnesota: ALDI, Amazon and Walmart.

## Important facts to know

### Online purchasing program

- The online option for EBT purchases is only available with the three currently approved retailers: ALDI,
  Amazon and Walmart. Retailers must go through an approval process with the federal government.
  Retailers that are interested in becoming approved should visit <a href="mailto:fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-requirements-provide-online-purchasing">fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-requirements-provide-online-purchasing</a> for more information.
- Cash benefits on an EBT card cannot be used to purchase items online only food benefits can be used for online purchasing of eligible foods. Find a list of eligible foods at <a href="mailto:fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items">fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items</a>
- Participants will need to pay for delivery fees and taxes (if applicable) with another electronic payment source (credit card or debit card, PayPal, etc.). Check pick-up options and delivery availability for your area with the specific retailer.
- Neither food nor cash benefits can be used to pay for fees of any type, such as delivery, service, or convenience fees.
- Online EBT will remain a permanent option that SNAP and MFIP food benefit recipients may use to purchase food items.

## Online options for current retailers

#### ALDI delivery options:

- ALDI, in partnership with Instacart, offers home delivery of groceries from select stores throughout Minnesota.
- Customers are able to shop from ALDI via the Instacart online site and mobile app. The website is <a href="mailto:shop.aldi.us">shop.aldi.us</a>.
- Customers can enter their zip code to determine if they are near a participating ALDI store.

- An Instacart customer profile is required to begin shopping. Once an Instacart customer profile is
  created, customers can enter their EBT card information as a form of payment in their profile, and can
  begin shopping and selecting items from ALDI's EBT SNAP-eligible products.
- Once items are added to their cart, customers will be able to select how much of their benefits they would like to allocate to the order.
- An alternative payment method (in addition to an EBT card) will be required to pay for items not eligible for SNAP purchasing or to pay for shipping fees and taxes, if applicable.
- SNAP participants will be able to shop ALDI delivery and pick-up via Instacart daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Orders for delivery and pick-up can be placed by customers for receipt in as fast as an hour or scheduled for days in advance. Pick-up options can vary; check shop.aldi.us for availability.

#### Amazon delivery options:

- Amazon currently offers three no-contact delivery programs for home delivery of groceries, including Amazon Fresh (a grocery delivery and pick-up for select cities), Amazon Pantry (an online store for groceries and household products) and Amazon.com Grocery. Delivery is not available in all areas.
   Check availability online. Amazon offers all EBT food benefit customers the following benefits:
  - Free non-Prime access to Amazon Fresh (where available) with free shipping on orders over \$35.
     A \$9.99 delivery fee applies to orders below \$35, similar to Prime members. Amazon Fresh is otherwise only available to Prime members.
  - Free shipping on Amazon Pantry on orders over \$35. A \$5.99 delivery fee applies to orders below \$35, similar to Prime members. Non-Prime members would otherwise pay a flat delivery charge of \$5.99 on all Amazon Pantry orders.
  - o Free shipping on orders over \$25 on regular Amazon.com orders for non-Prime customers.
- A customer does not need a credit card or debit card on file to place orders with an EBT card. An alternative payment method (in addition to an EBT card) will be required to pay for items not eligible for SNAP purchasing or to pay for shipping fees and taxes, if applicable.
- EBT food benefit funds cannot be used to pay for shipping and can only be used to pay for eligible items.
- Customers that receive government benefits (for e.g. Medicaid, WIC, TANF or SNAP) can purchase
  unlimited delivery through a discounted Prime membership plan for \$5.99/month. Learn more about
  this option at <a href="mailto:amazon.com/qualify">amazon.com/qualify</a>.
- To use your EBT card, visit <a href="mailto:amazon.com/snap-ebt">amazon.com/snap-ebt</a> and follow the instructions on the screen. If you are not already an Amazon customer, you will need to create an account and add your EBT card plus zip code to make sure that you are eligible. There are also opportunities to add an EBT card during checkout or in your wallet.

### Walmart delivery options:

- Some stores offer delivery and pick-up options while some are designated as pick-up only.
- Curbside pick-up is free, but delivery to homes has an additional cost: \$7.95-9.95 per delivery, or unlimited delivery at \$98 for the year or \$12.95 per month.
- If a store offers delivery, there is a 9-10 mile radius limit for delivery.

- Both pick-up and deliveries must be prescheduled based on available time slots. (Slots are available beginning at 12:01 a.m. local time.)
- There is a contactless delivery option where customers can choose to not sign for items, and items will be dropped off at their front door.
- There is a specific website for ordering groceries from Walmart with an EBT card:
  - Visit the Walmart grocery site at <u>grocery.walmart.com</u> to use your EBT card for online transactions.
  - o **Do not** use regular Walmart.com site for EBT purchases.

For answers to frequently asked questions about online EBT purchasing, visit mn.gov/dhs/online-ebt/.

For more information on the program, visit the EBT online purchasing pilot webpage at fns.usda.gov/snap/online-purchasing-pilot.



For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-4000, or use your preferred relay service. ADA1 (2-18)

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