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COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF LAKE COUNTY

## Communication Update:



### VA national cemeteries to commemorate Memorial Day

The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs' (VA) [National Cemetery Administration](#) (NCA) announced it will commemorate Memorial Day this year with solemn wreath laying ceremonies. [Read more](#)

### COVID-19 Memorial Day Weekend - Safe food & Safe family reminders from the IL Poison Center

#### Poison Center Monthly Blog:

#### [Safe food, safe families in the time of Coronavirus](#)

The IPC data shows the number of food poisoning cases reported to the IPC from April 1 to May 15, have increased 25% in 2020 when compared to 2019.

All around Illinois – and throughout the world – people have adapted their eating habits to stay-at-home orders created in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic. With the additional cooking duties, experienced home cooks are becoming amateur chefs and non-cookers are becoming accomplished home cooks. As a result, and since the upcoming Memorial Day weekend kicks off the warm weather dining season, now seems to be the perfect time to talk about food safety. Here are three common foods associated with food poisoning events and how you can prevent spending any time sitting on, or praying to, the porcelain throne...[Read More](#)

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**Lake County's Memorial Day website**  
Residents can virtually share stories and photos to honor the memories of fallen heroes during Memorial Day.



### Lake County Health Department Coronavirus Update and Safety Reminders for Memorial Day Weekend - May 20, 2020, [read full report.](#)

"In honor of the sacrifices of our fallen service members, we ask residents to find safe, alternative ways to take part in Memorial Day remembrances, including virtual events offered across the nation and right here in Lake County," said Lake County Health Department Executive Director Mark Pfister. "Do not ignore the very real risks to your loved ones. Continue to avoid gatherings, practice social distancing, wear a face covering when in public, and wash your hands often."

Because of COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines in place, Lake County has developed a website for residents to virtually share stories and photos to honor the memories of fallen heroes during Memorial Day. Residents can submit their own Honor Post highlighting their loved one or friend, along with a photo and written tribute on Lake County's Memorial Day website at <https://memorial-day-lakecountyil.hub.arcgis.com/>.

A list of virtual Memorial Day ceremonies is available at [www.military.com/memorial-day](http://www.military.com/memorial-day).

## Illinois e-News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

### CONTACT

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## Pritzker Administration Announces 1.8 Million SNAP Recipients Will Be Able to Buy Food Online

*Access will be provided automatically to all existing Link card holders beginning June 2; Customers will not need to call or visit an office; Traditional SNAP purchasing will continue*  
Today, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) announced the state's plan to enable 1.8 million SNAP recipients to purchase food from participating grocery retailers online has been approved by the federal government.

This new purchasing option will begin on June 2. All Link customers will be alerted when they can use their card to make food orders online.

"To keep more families safe and healthy, my administration is expanding the ways in which SNAP recipients can acquire groceries to include online purchasing," **said Governor JB Pritzker**. "The best part is that in addition to helping families shop a little easier and safer during this pandemic, this is a permanent new feature of the SNAP landscape in Illinois that will support our residents for many years to come."

"I partnered with Senator Duckworth and Governor Pritzker's Administration to push USDA to address technological barriers by approving Illinois' request to let SNAP recipients buy their groceries online," **said U.S. Senator Dick Durbin**. "This step will help millions of people in our

<a href="#">Subscribe</a>	<a href="#">Past Issues</a>	<a href="#">state safely put food on the table. I will continue to look for ways to expand access to SNAP benefits and food programs as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic so people do not go</a>	<a href="#">Translate ▼</a>	<a href="#">RSS</a>
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hungry.”

“As someone whose family depended on food stamps and reduced-price meals after my father lost his job when I was in high school, I know firsthand just how important access to affordable food can be,” **said U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth**. “I also know that no individual or family should be disadvantaged or have to choose between putting themselves and their families at risk or going hungry simply because they rely on SNAP benefits. The reality is that the COVID-19 pandemic has made it challenging—and even unsafe—for Illinoisans to visit stores or travel to purchase groceries, and the work Governor Pritzker and IDHS are doing to provide our state’s families with safe alternatives is an important lifeline. I’m glad to have a partner like JB in Illinois, and I’ll keep working with Senator Durbin in Washington to secure needed support at the federal level.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved IDHS’ SNAP Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Online implementation plan, which gives SNAP customers the ability to enter their Personal Identification Number (PIN) to order groceries online. All SNAP recipients with Link cards in Illinois will be able to participate.

Walmart and Amazon have agreed to accept online orders in Illinois once the program site launches. Additional grocery retailers are welcome to join EBT Online. Any retailers interested in the program can find more information and apply at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/online-purchasing-pilot>.

“We are so pleased the USDA approved our request so that we can soon begin offering online purchasing to all SNAP recipients in Illinois,” **said IDHS Secretary Grace B. Hou**. “This is one more way we can make the lives of our customers a little easier during this difficult time.”

“This is a great step towards making sure all Illinoisans have access to food delivery, regardless of their income,” **said Illinois House Majority Leader Greg Harris**. “I encourage other retailers to partner with IDHS to provide at grocery delivery services to SNAP recipients across the state.”

“The individuals and families we serve are often facing tremendous obstacles in their lives,” **said Central Illinois Foodbank Executive Director Pam Molitoris**. “Giving them an online option to access quality food is the right thing to do, and I’m grateful to Governor Pritzker, IDHS and the USDA for making this option possible.”

“We applaud the Illinois Department of Human Services for taking action to increase equity in food access by giving households receiving SNAP benefits the option to purchase groceries online,” **said Kate Maehr, executive director and CEO of the Greater Chicago Food Depository**. “SNAP is our most effective tool to prevent hunger during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is only fair that a household receiving SNAP benefits should have the same opportunity as any other household to buy groceries online. This is critical for our most vulnerable neighbors, including those who are unable to leave their homes.”



Help Community Action Partnership of Lake County continue helping families in need of the valued resources during this pandemic. We truly appreciate your support at this time!

Donations will support low income Lake County, Illinois residents.

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The Community Action Partnership of Lake County team is committed to helping families in Lake County during this pandemic. We will continue to provide resources to low-income families and provide daily COVID-19 communication updates through our newsletter, website, and social media to the community. In addition, we are providing resources for those individuals and families who have applied and waiting for unemployment insurance but these families need help now! Call us today at 847-249-4330!

We encourage YOU to share with your family and friends to Stay Home and Save Lives in order to stop the spread of COVID-19. [#StayHomeSaveLives](#)

Mary Lockhart White, Executive Director/CEO

#### About Community Action Partnership of Lake County

*Community Action Partnership of Lake County is one of 1,100 agencies across the United States established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's War on poverty. Community Action Partnership of Lake is one of the largest social service organizations in Lake County serving 24,000 individuals and families annually. Services are in program areas: Pre-K education through Head Start and other early childhood education programs that focus on kindergarten readiness; Youth and Family Services that include emergency assistance, self-sufficiency case management, employment and training, post-secondary scholarships, and a food pantry; affordable housing for low-income individuals, families, and honorably discharged homeless military veterans; home heating bill payment assistance; home weatherization; small business incubators and volunteer programs. For more information, visit <https://caplakecounty.org/>.*

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Community Action changes people's lives,  
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improves communities, and makes  
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help themselves and each other.



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