



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SNAP Staggered Payments Begin Sept. 1**

*VDSS encourages customers to plan ahead to lessen impact during transition*

**RICHMOND, Va.** (August 27, 2012) – The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is reminding recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, that benefits will begin a staggered payment schedule September 1, 2012.

To lessen the impact of the change, the Department encourages recipients to plan accordingly.

“About 60 percent of Virginia’s SNAP customers will initially experience a slight delay during the two month transition period. It’s important that they plan now for this change to ensure they have enough food” said VDSS’ Director of Benefit Programs, Thomas Steinhauser. “Also, with this transition coming during the time children are returning to school, it will be helpful for parents to know that their children automatically qualify for the free school breakfast and lunch program if they are receiving SNAP benefits.”

Currently, Virginia is one of only nine states to issue SNAP benefits to all eligible households on the first day of each month. The new process will expand the issuance of benefits to four times each month; benefit issuance dates will be the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> based on the last digit in the household’s case number. Earlier this summer VDSS sent letters to all current SNAP customers in Virginia explaining the new schedule.

The new schedule will be based on SNAP recipients' case numbers (located on letters received from Social Services):

<b>Case Number</b>	<b>September 2012</b>	<b>October 2012 and after</b>
Case numbers ending in 0, 1, 2, or 3	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of the Month	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of the Month
Case numbers ending in 4 or 5	4 <sup>th</sup> Day of the Month	4 <sup>th</sup> Day of the Month
Case numbers ending in 6 or 7	4 <sup>th</sup> Day of the Month	7 <sup>th</sup> Day of the Month
Case numbers ending in 8 or 9	4 <sup>th</sup> Day of the Month	9 <sup>th</sup> Day of the Month

The transition to staggered payments will be fully implemented in October, the same time in which some families can expect to see a slight increase in benefits. This potential change is due to a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA).

**Editor's Note:**

- Please include the visual of the SNAP letter in conjunction with this story to emphasize where SNAP recipients should look for their case number.
- For more information about this change, SNAP clients can visit the Virginia Department of Social Services web site at [www.dss.virginia.gov](http://www.dss.virginia.gov) and click on "SNAP Changes Coming" or call the Virginia Department of Social Services at 1-800-552-3431.

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