



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Virginia Extends Certification Period for Its Core Assistance Programs

Richmond, VA (March 31, 2020) – In efforts to ensure households are able to maintain access to food, health care benefits, cash assistance and child care during the COVID-19 crisis, Virginia will extend certification periods for its core human service programs. This includes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Child Care Subsidy programs. Households whose certification periods end between March and May 2020 will have services automatically extended for six months. All participants impacted by this change will be notified by mail regarding the date of their extended certification date.

Additionally, Virginia’s Medicaid program has extended renewals and redeterminations during this period. Participants who file an appeal during the public health emergency will automatically have coverage extended while waiting for the appeal.

“The health and well-being of all Virginians is core to our mission and remains our highest priority,” said Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Commissioner S. Duke Storen. “We want to ensure that every individual and household continues to have access to every available resource to support their needs during these unprecedented times.”

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act also provides an exemption from the work requirement policy (i.e. *able-bodied adult without dependents time limits*). All Virginia localities are now exempt from the work requirement until further notice.

VDSS will continue to work with all appropriate federal and state partners to support program participants with vital resources during this period of uncertainty.

Virginians are encouraged to contact 2-1-1 to learn more about available state and local resources. To apply for health care or other benefit programs, visit CommonHelp online at <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov>.

For more information regarding Virginia’s efforts to increase access to health care, click [here](#) or visit the [Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services](#).

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