

From: Kristin Bunton <kbunton@co.cumberland.nc.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:49 PM
Subject: Media Release: County Reports 13 New Cases, Food Funding Available for Children



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30,

2020

Department of Public Health

Contact: Dr. Jennifer Green, Health Director

Telephone: 910-433-3705

jgreen@co.cumberland.nc.us

COVID-19 Update **County Reports 13 New Cases, Food Funding Available for Children**

FAYETTEVILLE – The Department of Public Health reports there are 272 total positive COVID-19 cases involving Cumberland County residents, an increase of 13 from Wednesday. The Department of Public Health is monitoring the patients and identifying close contacts who may be affected. Staff will notify any contacts who fall under the guidelines for additional monitoring and testing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines a “close contact” as being within 6 feet for 10 minutes or more.

A new food benefit program is launching to help families purchase food for children impacted by school closings during the pandemic.

North Carolina has been approved for the new Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. This program will provide extra help buying groceries for the families of the more than 39,000 Cumberland County children who normally receive or are eligible for free and reduced lunch at school.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) will administer the P-EBT program in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, so please visit www.ncdhhs.gov for more information regarding [North Carolina's P-EBT program](#) to include answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and any updated information over the coming weeks.

Families do not need to apply for the P-EBT program. School information will be used to determine eligibility and distribution of benefits. Families currently receiving Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefits who are eligible for P-EBT will receive the additional benefit on their existing Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.

P-EBT eligible families not currently enrolled in FNS will be mailed an EBT card and a letter from NCDHHS in the next few weeks explaining how to activate and use their card. The P-EBT card and letter will be mailed to the address on the child(ren)'s school record. Visit www.ncdhhs.gov for more information regarding any issues related to change of address.

Eligible families will receive approximately \$371 in total P-EBT benefits per child, provided over two installments. Unused benefits will rollover month-to-month and must be used within 365 days.

Cumberland County Schools will continue providing curbside pick-up meals at various locations to all children 18 and younger. [View meal pick up information.](#)

Families can text FOODNC to 877-877 to find local meal sites. The service is also available in Spanish by texting COMIDA to 877-877.

Aggregate data for COVID-19 is posted on the County's dashboard at co.cumberland.nc.us/covid19, including a zip code map.

###

Kristin L. Bunton

Communication and Outreach Coordinator
Cumberland County Government
O: 910-438-4025
M: 864-497-4220

Make Cumberland COUNT!



**MAKE NC
COUNT**
C E N S U S 2 0 2 0

All correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the N.C. Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.