



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park Center Dr
Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

September 26, 2017

**SPECIAL DISASTER RULES FOR ACCEPTING
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)
EBT BENEFITS
FOR HOT FOOD PURCHASES**

Due to the severe storms and flooding caused by Hurricane Irma, and effective immediately, **retail food stores** licensed by the Food and Nutrition Service and **located in the following Florida counties** may continue to accept SNAP benefits in exchange for HOT foods and foods intended to be consumed on retailer premises:

Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, Desoto, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Union and Volusia

These special rules are in effect through October 31, 2017

When hot foods are purchased with SNAP EBT benefits through October 31, 2017, the purchases are NOT subject to sales tax, as the foods mentioned above are considered SNAP eligible during this period.

We encourage all SNAP authorized retail food stores in the above counties to post a special notice in the store letting SNAP customers know that they can use their SNAP EBT benefits to purchase hot foods and, where practical, may remain on the premises to consume those foods. Thank you for your assistance in aiding those impacted by the severe storms and flooding caused by Hurricane Irma.