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July 26, 2018

**VENDOR ALERT 2018 – 04**

TO: ALL WIC VENDORS  
SUBJECT: REQUIRED ACTION FOR VENDORS - VENDOR READINESS SURVEY FOR WIC EBT

**Purpose**

The California Department of Public Health/Women, Infants and Children Division (CDPH/WIC) is preparing for the statewide transition from paper food instruments (checks) to an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system. California WIC local agencies will begin issuing the new California WIC Card in a phased roll-out beginning in Summer 2019. WIC participants will use their California WIC Card to access food benefits at WIC-authorized vendor stores throughout California.

To ensure all WIC-authorized vendors are prepared to accept the California WIC Card and successfully transact WIC EBT, CDPH/WIC will be gathering information from vendors to evaluate each store's existing cash register equipment, merchant processing services and technical capabilities.

This vendor alert provides information and instruction for vendors on the upcoming **Vendor Readiness Survey** as well as actions vendors can take now to prepare for WIC EBT.

**Authority**

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-296) requires all state WIC agencies to transition statewide from paper checks to EBT by October 1, 2020.

**Required Action for Vendors**

**All vendors are required to complete the [WIC EBT Vendor Readiness Survey](#) by August 17, 2018.**

**The survey can be accessed at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Vendor\\_Readiness](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Vendor_Readiness). Vendors that log into the VWIX portal will also see a message and link to the survey.**

**Becoming WIC EBT Capable**

The California WIC EBT Vendor Readiness Team includes CDPH/WIC and our WIC EBT implementation partners, Custom Data Processing (CDP) and Fidelity Information Services (FIS). The Team will work closely with WIC-authorized vendors to help with the transition to WIC EBT.

To accept the California WIC Card, vendors must have equipment that is EBT capable. EBT capability means that the vendor's equipment must be able to successfully transact



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WIC EBT using either (1) An integrated electronic cash register Point of Sale (ECR/POS) system that has been certified for use in California by our Retailer Enablement Contractor (CDP) or, (2) a WIC EBT stand-beside system POS terminal provided by California WIC's EBT Processor (FIS).

**Integrated Systems** – Support processing for multiple types of payments (e.g. credit cards, cash, checks, SNAP and WIC) by a single ECR. Integrating WIC EBT into your existing POS and your regular business processes allows the store to manage inventory, payment, and settlement for WIC items within the same system as other payment types.

**Stand-Beside Systems** – Are separate POS devices used to ring-up WIC food items separately from non-WIC items at the register. Stand-beside systems may be single-function (WIC EBT only), or multi-function (WIC EBT and SNAP).

**Additional information on certification for integrated vendors and stand-beside systems will be shared in upcoming vendor alerts and communications from CDPH/WIC.**

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**How Can Vendors Begin to Prepare for WIC EBT?**

What can vendors do now to prepare for WIC EBT?

- ❖ Complete the [Vendor Readiness Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Vendor_Readiness) no later than August 17, 2018.
- ❖ Vendors with integrated cash register systems should contact their POS provider to determine whether their existing equipment is certified to accept WIC EBT. Your POS provider is the company that provides support for your in-store electronic cash registers.
- ❖ Look for important upcoming vendor alerts and communications from CDPH/WIC about the transition to WIC EBT and the California WIC Card.

**Questions**

If you have questions about transition to WIC EBT, please send an email to [WICEBT@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:WICEBT@cdph.ca.gov).

You may also contact your WIC Vendor Consultant or call toll free (855) WIC-STOR or (855) 942-7867, or contact the WIC Vendor Management Branch by email at [WICVENDORINFO@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:WICVENDORINFO@cdph.ca.gov).

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