

## DTA Focused Changing of EBT Card PINs to Protect Benefits

### What is happening?

To protect DTA clients and their benefits from known skimming scams, DTA will be requiring cardholders in certain cities and towns to set a new PIN to use their EBT card if they have not received a new card or changed their PIN recently. DTA will be notifying cardholders before this occurs, including through dedicated outreach to residents with disabilities, older adults, immigrants, and survivors of domestic violence. Cardholders can change their PIN through automated steps by calling the number on the back of their card. If anyone has trouble changing their PIN, DTA is available to help.

DTA Communications	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<b>Notice 1:</b> Clients who have not changed their PIN or received a new card recently will receive a letter on or after these dates, directing them to change their PIN or it will be removed soon	8/15/2022	8/16/2022	8/17/2022
<b>Text Message:</b> DTA will send a text message to clients notifying that DTA will remove the client's PIN if they have not changed their PIN or received a new card recently and they need to select a new PIN	8/23/2022	8/24/2022	8/25/2022
<b>Notice 2:</b> Clients who have not yet activated their new PIN will receive a letter in the mail notifying them to do so	9/06/2022	9/07/2022	9/08/2022

### Why is this happening?

DTA clients have been the target of benefit theft through skimming. Skimming is a type of theft where thieves put a device on a store's card-swiping machine to copy card information. This information is used to make fake EBT cards. These are then used to steal money or SNAP from real accounts. Skimming can happen anywhere someone swipes an EBT card. The federal government will not restore SNAP funds if they are skimmed/stolen, so it is critical that we act now to help clients protect these benefits.

### What has already been done?

This was first identified in April 2022 for cash benefits and June 2022 for SNAP benefits. DTA has taken multiple proactive steps to notify clients of these scams and ways to protect their benefits, including: reminding them to change their PIN via text messages, adding an alert on the agency's mobile app DTA Connect, updating the message on the DTA Assistance Line,



inserting flyers in regular DTA mailings and providing flyers in DTA local offices, sending out notices, creating multilingual outreach materials, a dedicated webpage, and sending out a media advisory.

Despite DTA's outreach efforts, many DTA clients have still not recently changed their PINs, making them vulnerable to skimming schemes. This is why DTA will be requiring clients in locations with a high incidence of skimming to change their PINs.

### **How can I help if I/my organization is located in an area of high incidence of skimming?**

Please encourage residents to change their EBT card PIN now (Group 1: before 8/23; Group 2: before 8/24; Group 3: before 8/25), as well as continue to do so before each time they get their benefits.

Outreach materials, including step-by-step instructions on how to change a PIN, are available at [Mass.gov/ProtectYourEBT](https://Mass.gov/ProtectYourEBT).

Your assistance in providing DTA clients with information and assisting them with changing/selecting a PIN will help them protect and access their benefits.

### *Cities and Towns*

**Group 1 Served by the Brockton DTA Office:** Abington, Avon, Brockton, Brant Rock, Bryantville, Canton, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Easton, Elmwood, Green Harbor, Hanover, Hanson, Halifax, Holbrook, Humarock, Kingston, Marshfield, Marshfield Hills, North Easton, North Marshfield, North Pembroke, Sharon, South Easton, Ocean Bluff, Plympton, Randolph, Rockland, Stonehill College, Stoughton, West Bridgewater, Whitman

**Group 2 Served by the Quincy DTA Office:** Accord, Braintree, Cohasset, Dedham, Dorchester (zip codes 02122, 02124), Dorchester Ctr, East Weymouth, Greenbush, Hingham, Hull, Milton, Minot, North Quincy, North Scituate, N. Weymouth, Norwell, Norwood, Quincy, Scituate, S. Weymouth, Squantum, Westwood, Weymouth, Wollaston

**Group 3 Served by the Nubian Square DTA Office:** Allston, Boston, Brighton, Brookline, Brookline Village, Cambridge (zip code 02163), Dorchester (zip codes 02121, 02125), Grove Hall, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Milton Village, Mission Hill, Readville, Roslindale, Roxbury, Roxbury Crossing, South Boston, Uphams Corner, West Roxbury