P-EBT

	Question	Answer
1.	Which absences should be reported if a student has three consecutive COVID-19 absences before and five consecutive COVID-19 related absences after the campus eligibility date?	Only the absences that occurred once campus eligibility has been met would be reported. Please note that the five days that allowed the campus to meet eligibility would also be included if the student was absent within that timeframe.
2.	What is the local education agency (LEA) process if they are not tracking COVID-19 related absences?	Per USDA's Food Nutrition Services Department, and confirmed by the Health and Human Services Commission, if an LEA is not tracking COVID-19 absences, a student with five or more consecutive excused absences may be reported. Only blocks of five or more consecutive excused absences may be reported.
3.	If a student is absent from Thursday until Wednesday of the following week for COVID-19 related absences, is this considered five consecutive absences?	Yes, that is correct since it is five consecutive instructional days.
4.	If a student is absent from Thursday until Wednesday of the following week for COVID-19 related absences, and Monday is a non-instructional day, has the student met the eligibility requirements?	No, it must be five instructional days. Non-instructional days do not count towards consecutive days for student eligibility.
5.	For Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)/Provision 2 (P2) campuses, are students that have an ECONOMIC-DISADVANTAGE-CODE (E0785) of Other Economic Disadvantage (99) eligible for P-EBT?	All students enrolled in CEP/P2 campuses are eligible for free/reduced-price meals. For CEP/P2 campuses, the economic disadvantaged code does not apply. Once the campus meets eligibility, then any students with COVID-19 related absences, virtual attendance or experienced school closures can be uploaded.
6.	Do students who are attending classes remotely under SB 15 count towards COVID-19 related absences? Would absences need to be confirmed to be COVID-19 related?	Students attending remotely under SB 15 are assumed to be remote due to COVID-19.
7.	Do the absences of students who did not physically start school at the beginning of the school year due to COVID-19 and/or school closures related to COVID-19 count towards campus eligibility or student absence days? What changes, if any, does an LEA need to make if the LEA already included students who did not begin school due to COVID-19?	Per HHS: If the schools cannot verify these days as COVID-related absences, then benefits cannot be provided for those days via the upload or RFR process. FNS has stressed that the school must be able to confirm the student's absences. Additionally, these days would not count towards campus eligibility. If a school cannot verify the absence, then those days cannot be counted; HHS cannot accept parent attestation of these days, even during the RFR process. There will be no changes to the RFR process to accommodate requests where schools cannot verify information, with the exclusion of the schools who use the 5-day block absence method (those LEAs

		not tracking COVID absences). This information was also provided via email on 3/30/2022.
8.	Does a campus meet eligibility for P-EBT beginning on day one or day five of the consecutive five-day requirement?	Eligibility begins on day one and student absences recorded on day one of the five-day requirement can be counted.
9.	Would CEP/P2 campuses only report students who have met the five consecutive day requirement for COVID-19 related absences? Are virtual attendance days also reported?	All campuses must meet the five-day campus eligibility requirements first before any students at that campus are eligible. Any virtual attendance days would be reported for any eligible campus.
10.	Is there a cutoff date for an LEA to receive a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) application?	According to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), which oversees the NSLP, there is no official cut-off date to receive the NSLP application. A household may submit the NSLP application at any time during the school year. However, the recommendation is to have the application submitted by April 29 in order to give the LEA enough time to process the application.
11.	Suppose an LEA did not track COVID-19 related absences in the 1st semester but began tracking COVID-19 related absences in the 2nd semester. Would the LEA be required to report COVID-19 related absences in the 2nd semester?	Yes, districts who did not track absences in Semester 1, but are now tracking absences in Semester 2 can use the five consecutive excused absences to report the COVID-19 related absences for Semester 1. Note: a combination of the two methods cannot be used within the same semester.
12.	Is the P-EBT absence reporting alternative option for COVID-19 only available at the district level?	The assumption is that the entire district would be tracking COVID-19 absences in the same manner. Each district will need to determine the best way to report their data.
13.	Are students who are identified as homeless, migrant, or foster care and coded as '99' eligible for P-EBT?	Per guidance released on 4/5: Based on questions received by a few local education agencies (LEAs), TEA and the Texas Department of Agriculture have determined that a small subset of students may not be included in the Semester 1 files. Students at *non-CEP/P2* campuses who are identified as homeless, migrant, or foster care, AND are also coded as economically disadvantaged "00" or "99" should also be included if they have COVID-19-related absences, received virtual instruction or experienced a school closure due to COVID-19. This additional guidance does not apply to students at CEP/P2 campuses since all students are eligible if they meet the COVID-19-related absence, virtual instruction, or school closure requirements. Timeline: If you are able to upload the additional subset of

| | | students before April 14, 2022, and you have already uploaded your LEA's P-EBT file, only include this specific subset of students in a new file with a different file name (File2 for example).
If you are unable to upload the additional subset of students before April 14, 2022, you may upload this additional subset of Semester 1 students in Submission 2.

Reminders:
Do not upload the same student twice within the same semester as you will receive an error. |