

HORIZON

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Medical Services (EMS). He will oversee the EMS

team (ambulance service), its equipment, and processes.

Jesse Lewsader has been named safety officer, transitioning from his full-

time role with the Paris Police Department. Jesse will manage safety compliance and emergency preparedness.

Billi Jo McNeill, BSN,

RN, has been named education manager. She previously worked at Union Hospital's intensive care unit, emergency room, with experience in clinic informat-

ics and physician education. She has a master's degree in leadership development from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and a bachelor's of science degree in

nursing from Indiana State University.

Whitney Sprinkle, education coordinator, has been promoted to manager of the Housekeeping Department.



Jesse Lewsader



Billi Jo McNeill, BSN, RN



Whitney Sprinkle

Horizon Health Therapists earn certification in Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Horizon Health is furthering its commitment to providing patients with the highest level of care.

Two of its respiratory therapists recently earned certification in Pulmonary Rehabilitation, a specialized program that treats individuals who have chronic breathing conditions. Kimberly Marlow and Lester Noval completed certification requirements through the American Association for Respiratory Care.

"This advanced training further demonstrates our staff's dedication to improving the health and wellbeing of our patients," said Mike Marx, respiratory therapy manager. "Patients in our program benefit from a comprehensive approach that includes supervised exercise, coping strategies, and im-

provements to their quality of life."

As specialists in pulmonary rehab, Marlow and Noval have advanced knowledge that can help patients increase their exercise capacity, improve symptoms of shortness of breath, and better manage anxiety and depression.

"Our approach is preventative," Marlow said. "We teach patients how to breathe correctly and work to keep them from being admitted to the hospital."

Horizon Health's Pulmonary Rehab Program is run by the Respiratory Therapy Department, in conjunction with Cardiac Rehabilitation. A medical referral is required to participate in the program. Call 217-466-4374 for more information.



Kimberly Marlow, RRT



Lester Noval, RRT

State announces new federal funding to feed low-income students

Debit card with funds expected to arrive next month to homes of eligible children

By Sarah Mansur
Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker on Tuesday announced new federal funding to expand the state's food assistance program for school-age children who would normally receive free or reduced-price meals.

Pritzker said the additional funds to the existing Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program will help feed 200,000 more children, for a total of about 1 million children who will receive assistance this school year compared to about 764,000 children who received P-EBT benefits the previous school year.

Unlike last school year, families will not need to apply to receive P-EBT but will automatically be enrolled if their child or children already qualify for free or reduced lunch, Pritzker said.

P-EBT benefits will be mailed out to families in a debit card starting next month, and families will receive one card per eligible child. According to the governor's office, families will receive \$6.82 for each day the child did not have access to school meals, an increased from \$5.70 for the previous school year.

"Our Department of Human Services is working with the Illinois State Board of Education to determine eligibility and local schools will let individual families know



that the assistance is headed their way. Securing this new support for Illinois families from the federal government amounts to more than \$750 million," Pritzker said during his news conference at Washington Elementary School in Springfield.

Illinois Department of Human Services Secretary Grace Hou said the debit cards can be used at grocery stores that accept state and federal welfare benefits. But

they cannot be used at restaurants, including fast food places.

The federal Electronic Benefits Transfer, which predates the pandemic, is an electronic system for individuals who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, and pay for food using SNAP benefits.

The P-EBT program was created in March 2020, under the federal relief pack-

age called the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Individuals who receive benefits through SNAP can also receive P-EBT benefits.

Children are eligible for P-EBT if they are enrolled in the free or reduced-price meals program at a school operating the National School Lunch Program. Currently, 48.5 percent of students in Illinois who are low-income and qualify for free or reduced lunch, according

to data from the Illinois Report Card.

If they are not enrolled in the free or reduced meals program, children will still be eligible for P-EBT if they are in a Community Eligibility Provision, which offers breakfast and lunch free to all students, provided they are without access to an in-school meal, according to the state's P-EBT website.

Schools are considered eligible to participate in

P-EBT if they operate the National School Lunch Program, and have been closed or operating remotely for at least five consecutive days at some point during the 2020-2021 school year.

"What this really does is give more nutrition, more options to many families, most families who already are receiving free or reduced lunch and to 200,000 more kids who otherwise would not," Pritzker said.

Pam Molitoris, executive director of Central Illinois Foodbank, said at the news conference that there are about 625,000 children in Illinois that are dealing with food insecurity, including nearly 11,000 in Sangamon County.

"We've got parents that do not know how they're going to get to a (food) distribution because they're teaching their kids at home. And so we are just thrilled with the governor, Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois State Board of Education and our legislators for seeing that this is really an important thing for our community," she said.

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KC Summers

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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. ONE ENTRY PER PERSON.