



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

March 1, 2018

Dear Maryland WIC Farmer,

The Maryland WIC Program is happy to announce that we have changed from a check based system to an electronic benefit delivery system called eWIC. As we let you know in April of last year, the conversion began in January of 2017 and completed in October of 2017. The WIC fruit and vegetable benefit (FVB) is now issued on an eWIC card instead of on a paper check, and requires all authorized retailers (grocers or farmers) to process benefit redemptions through a point-of-sale (POS) device with internet access.

Maryland's eWIC Processor, Solutran Inc., has created a wireless solution for farmers to be able to accept the Maryland eWIC card. The wireless device is a Veriphone VX 680, and uses a mobile hotspot, personal (cell phone) hotspot, or wireless network with an internet connection to communicate with the State's eWIC processor. The device has a rechargeable battery and does not require an external power supply.

The Veriphone VX 680 has passed testing requirements by the Program and will be used in an eWIC pilot for farmers in April 2018. Several farmers have already volunteered to participate in the pilot. Once the pilot is completed, we will evaluate the results and implement any necessary changes before statewide rollout in May/June of this year.

During the eWIC rollout for farmers, the State will provide the POS device at no cost to the farmer. If you'd like to be able to accept WIC FVBs at your farmers' market or farm stand, you'll need to:

- Have your own internet access through a mobile phone or mobile hotspot;
- Sign an agreement with the State's eWIC processor for the use of the POS device (at no charge); and
- Attend a mandatory training session conducted by the State's eWIC processor.

Maryland WIC is surveying all existing authorized farmers to determine if they have the necessary connection service and to see if they're interested in receiving a wireless eWIC POS device. Please complete the attached survey by March 23rd and return it as instructed on the form. Alternatively, you can submit your survey electronically via Survey Monkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/98V3DV3>.

Please note that **eWIC FVB's** are totally separate from the **WIC and Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) coupons**. You can continue to redeem the **WIC and Seniors FMNP coupons at farmers' markets authorized by the Maryland Department of Agriculture**.

We thank you for all that you do to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to our WIC participants. If you have any questions regarding this letter or submitting your survey, please contact Terri Buckler at 410-767-5722 or terri.buckler@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Wilson, MEd, RD, LDN
Director
Maryland WIC Program

cc: Maryland WIC Local Agencies



Farmer eWIC Survey

Farm Name: _____ Stamp # _____

Please complete the following survey by **March 23rd** and return it as instructed below. Alternatively, you can submit your survey electronically via Survey Monkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/98V3DV3>.

1. Are you interested in being an eWIC authorized farmer to accept WIC FVBs at your farmers’ market or farm stand?

Yes		No	
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If yes, please give us your name and the best way to contact you:

If no, thank you for taking the time to respond. Please return by March 23, 2018.

2. If yes, do you have a reliable internet connection to support the wireless eWIC POS device?

Yes		No	
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Please send completed survey to Terri Buckler at:

Maryland WIC Program
201 W. Preston Street, 1st Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201

Via Email: terri.buckler@maryland.gov

Via Fax: 410-333-5683

If you have any questions or require additional information, please email Terri Buckler at terri.buckler@maryland.gov or call 410-767-5722.