

Prepare your store team for Virginia's SNAP Beverage Update

— Stores are responsible for following guidelines at checkout —

Beginning **October 1, 2026**, carbonated sweetened beverages — including soda, diet soda, “zero” soda and carbonated energy drinks — can no longer be purchased using SNAP benefits.

No other food categories are affected by this update.

**NOT SNAP-ELIGIBLE**

**Soda (regular)**

**Diet Soda**

**“Zero” Soda**

**Carbonated Energy Drinks**



Starting October 1, these drinks **cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits.**

**STILL SNAP-ELIGIBLE**

Non-carbonated energy drinks

Unsweetened seltzer drinks

Lemonade

Juice

Iced Tea

Iced Coffee

Milk and milk alternatives

Yogurt drinks

Infant formula

Nutritional products like meal replacement shakes or drinks



WHAT TO SAY IF A CUSTOMER IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE CHANGES

“This is a statewide guideline that all stores are required to follow. You can still purchase these drinks with another form of payment.”

LEARN MORE:
dss.virginia.gov/SNAPHealthy



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