

COUNTY OF COLUSA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

251 E. Webster St.
Colusa, CA 95932

Elizabeth Kelly
Director



ADMINISTRATION: (530) 458-0250

HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

Children's Services: (530) 458-0280
Adult Services: (530) 458-0280
Eligibility Services: (530) 458-0250
Public Guardian: (530) 458-0280
Veterans Service Office: (530) 458-0388

HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

Public Health/Nursing: (530) 458-0380
Tobacco: (530) 458-0380

For More Information:

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04/13/23

NEWS BRIEF: EBT Fraud in Colusa County – Beneficiaries and Businesses Urged to Exercise Caution.

On April 3, 2023, Colusa County Health and Human Services (DHHS) was alerted to the theft of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) funds and benefits from local beneficiaries. These thefts are not new to California, and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Fraud Unit has been alerted to the thefts within Colusa County. Most of the thefts that have been identified occurred in the Bay Area on April 1st between 6:01 am and 6:05 am.

Since April 1st, the Colusa Police Department and DHHS have identified 49 theft transactions from EBT accounts totaling \$35,664.57. While all of the transactions utilizing the stolen benefits have occurred in other jurisdictions, the original theft appears to have occurred locally via swipe transactions. On April 8th, Colusa Police Department discovered an illegal electronic skimming device at a local supermarket. EBT cards do not use embedded chips or NFC technology, leaving them highly susceptible to skimming.

“Unfortunately, this theft will continue to be a problem until 2025 when the State of California updates its EBT system and provides embedded chips on benefit cards,” said Elizabeth Kelly, Director of Health and Human Services. *“Beneficiaries and local businesses are urged to take steps to protect their benefits and financial transaction devices to minimize the local impact.”*

PROTECT YOUR BENEFITS

- Transition to direct deposit
- Keep your PIN and card number a secret
- Cover your hand when typing in your PIN
- Try to change your PIN the day before your benefits become available each and every month
- Do not click on any emails regarding your EBT card
- Watch out for suspicious websites
- Keep track of your benefits daily

Customers who have had their benefits stolen are not required to file a police report. Instead, DHSS has forms available to those who have had their benefits stolen to receive replacement benefits. While all benefits will be reinstated, the process may take up to 10 business days. If your benefits have been stolen, please contact DHHS at (530) 458-0250.

DHHS has launched an “[EBT Fraud Tracker](#)” dashboard to track the local EBT fraud. For questions about EBT cards, call (877) 328-9677 or visit [BenefitsCal.com](#).