

GEORGE LATIMER, Westchester County Executive

Date: November 30, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WESTCHESTER WIC BENEFITS TO GO ELECTRONIC

All Westchester WIC Offices Closed December 1 to 7 to Ease Transition

(White Plains, NY) – The Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, run through the Westchester County Health Department (WCDH), which provides families with nutrition education, benefits for nutritious foods and more, will be closed during the first week of December so that the program can transition from a paper to an electronic benefits system.

“We are confident this brief closure will pave the way for much easier food shopping for our WIC families,” said Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD. “eWIC cards should streamline the checkout process.”

WIC participants will be able to purchase foods using an electronic benefits card called eWIC. The eWIC card will work like a debit card at the store. This will make the shopping experience easier and more efficient for participants and vendors.

Participants in the WCDH WIC program have been notified over the past few months about the new system and the week-long closure, which is required as part of the statewide rollout. To assure WCDH WIC participants were served prior to rollout, the program extended hours from mid-October through the end of November. To further accommodate WIC families, Westchester County’s WIC offices in Yonkers and Port Chester were open on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, and on Saturday, November 17, when the WIC offices normally would be closed. Additionally, community partners and referral organizations were notified via mailings, emails and presentations to help ensure they were prepared for WIC agency closures and lighter clinic schedules in the early weeks of rollout.

The Westchester County Department of Health WIC Program serves just under half of the 16,000 women, infants and children that participate in WIC Programs throughout Westchester County. Statewide, more than 424,000 New Yorkers rely on WIC to help them eat and stay healthier. And nationally, about half of all infants benefit from WIC.

For more information, please visit WIC’s webpage at westchestergov.com/health for more information.

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About Westchester County

Westchester County, located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, covers 500 square miles and has a population of just under a million. Originally home to Native Americans, who were members of the Lenape tribe, it is today a rich mix of many cultures and landscapes. The County is a blend of bustling cities, quaint villages and picturesque towns as well as open spaces and a network of beautiful parks. Westchester is made up of 6 cities, 19 towns and 20 villages. Westchester County is known for top-notch public schools, and a high quality of life. The County is also an intellectual capital, boasting a highly educated workforce, competitive colleges and universities, Fortune 500 companies, world changing non-profits, and cutting-edge research centers. Westchester is led by County Executive George Latimer, who took office in January 2018 as the ninth County Executive. Using inclusion and openness as a foreground, Latimer is fighting to make Westchester a destination for all people to live, work and enjoy. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestergov.com

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