

State Treasury Agencies Continue To Serve The Public

The Massachusetts State Treasurer's Office consists of several agencies and departments that serve people across the Commonwealth every day. With the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the need for social distancing, Treasurer Deborah Goldberg and her nearly 750 Treasury employees are working hard to provide critical services remotely, without compromising the important work of the office.

"The Treasury has taken action to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to our employees and the public," said State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg. "The steps and procedures that have been put into place have allowed our employees to work remotely while still being able to assist the public with any Treasury needs they may have."

For information on specific departments, please reference the department updates and contact information listed below. For any general Treasury related matters, please visit www.mass.gov/treasury or call 617-367-9333 ext. 243.

Alcohol Beverage Control Commission (ABCC):

The ABCC is working to assist alcoholic beverage licensees across the state with a variety of needs they are facing at this time. The ABCC has temporarily postponed all public meetings.

As a result of challenges posed by COVID-19, the ABCC has issued an order granting hardship relief for all sec. 12 licensees on invoices issued on or after January 18, 2020, extending the delinquency reporting period from (30) days to a total of ninety (90) days.

For more information on COVID-19 ABCC Advisory Information, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/covid-19-abcc-advisory-information>

To contact the ABCC, please call (617) 727-3040.

State Lottery:

All Lottery claims centers will be closed to the public until further notice. Claim forms are now available on their website. For more information on how to claim a prize by mail, and to access a printable claim form, visit <https://www.masslottery.com/about/news.html>. Due to anticipated mail volume, please allow extra time for processing.

Unclaimed Property (UCP):

The Unclaimed Property Division continues to process and pay out claims in a timely manner. They are available to assist by phone, over email, and by their website below.

Website: [FindMassMoney.com](https://www.mass.gov/ucp)

To search a name, check the status of a claim and general inquiries: 617-367-9333 ext:416 or UCPClaims@tre.state.ma.us

Inquiries from the corporate holder community: 617-367-9333 ext: 426 or UCPReporting@tre.state.ma.us

Veterans Bonus Division:

The Veterans' Bonus Division continues to process wartime bonuses through online applications to veterans that

lived in Massachusetts before entering the military and served during wartime.

For more information please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/veterans-bonus-inquiry>.

To apply online, please visit: www.vetsbonusma.com

For questions, please email: veteransbonus@tre.state.ma.us

The Massachusetts State Retirement Board (MSRB):

The State Retirement Board staff continues to ensure that all pension benefits are paid in a timely manner and are all set to pay out the March pension payments on 3/31.

The MSRB posted an alert on their website with information for members. You can view it here: <https://www.mass.gov/alerts/msrb-special-announcement-update-3202020#undefined>.

To reach the MSRB Main (Call center team), please email: srb@tre.state.ma.us

To reach Communications, please email: MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us

To reach Survivor Benefits, please visit: survivorbenefits@tre.state.ma.us

To reach Buyback (Service Purchases): Buyback@tre.state.ma.us

Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA):

The MSBA continues to serve communities, school districts, and constituents throughout the state.

The MSBA has recently moved the deadline for the Core Statement of Interest applications to May 6, 2020.

Public meetings going forward will be held remotely.

To reach the MSBA, please email information@mass-schoolbuildings.org.

Massachusetts CORE/ SMART Plans:

The CORE/SMART Plans continue to assist participants and state and municipal employees.

For the SMART Plan: Due to safety concerns regarding the coronavirus, all SMART Plan office locations in Waltham, Worcester, Springfield, and in Boston at the Massachusetts State Retirement Board, will be closed to visitors in accordance with the governor's stay-at-home advisory emergency order.

For the SMART Plan: SMART Plan advisors are still available to assist participants at any time over the phone and virtually. Participants can view our regional map to find their local Retirement Plan Advisor.

For the CORE Plan: Participant services representative are available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Eastern time and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time. CORE Plan participants can access their account information 24 hours a day, seven days a week via the website at www.ma-core.com or by calling the CORE Plan Service Center at 844-365-CORE (2673).

The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (CWT):

The CWT is continuing to fund water infrastructure projects for municipalities and other eligible entities.

As future projects go out to bid, the Trust is working with communities to navigate any uncertainty on a case by case basis. The Trust is fully operational and is available to assist communities as issues arise.

To reach the CWT, please call 617-367-9333 ext 508

Massachusetts Debt & Cash Management:

Massachusetts Debt and Cash Management are fully operational.

Cash management is ensuring payments are being made to vendors, employees, and retirees in addition to assisting with expediting payments for much needed supplies.

Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE):

OEE continues to support, advocate, and facilitate policies that support and empower all Massachusetts residents.

Available Digital Tools:

OEE has created a resource page for families who might be experiencing lifestyle and income changes amid the COVID-19 outbreak. <https://www.mass.gov/ma-financial-resources-for-covid-19>.

They are working on fast-tracking digital expansion efforts originally planned for early summer 2020, including a partnership with Everfi digital financial education. <https://masstreasury.everfi-next.net/welcome/myfinanciallife>

Workshops:

OEE is hosting senior scam and fraud prevention workshops via webinar. The webinars will touch on specific scams related to the COVID-19 outbreak. The first workshop will be on Wednesday, April 1st at 2pm. These workshops are a partnership with People's United Bank. <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-economic-empowerment>

OEE is continuing to host BabySteps Savings Plan enrollment trainings for organizations across Massachusetts. These workshops are being held by webinar. If you would like to host a training, please email: info@babystepssavingsplan.org.

Later in April, OEE is hosting financial empowerment webinars for women to replace their in-person Women's Financial Summits. Information will be on <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-economic-empowerment>

And the office will be collaborating with external partners to deliver additional financial empowerment workshops to those who need it the most during this time.

Additional Programs:

Credit for Life Fair grantees are able to expend funds for an additional school year in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

To reach OEE, please email empowerment@tre.state.ma.us.

Massachusetts State Income Tax Filing Deadline Extended To July 15

Gov. Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Robert DeLeo recently announced an agreement to extend the 2019 state individual income tax filing and payment deadline from April 15 to July 15 due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

This income tax relief is automatic and taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms to qualify.

"Massachusetts will move the state personal income tax filing and payment

deadline to July 15, consistent with the federal government, in order to provide additional flexibility to filers during this crisis," Baker said. "In partnership with our colleagues in the Legislature, we are committed to providing this flexibility to taxpayers in a way that protects the Commonwealth's strong fiscal footing that we have all worked hard to develop over the past several years."

"We are proud to work with the Legislature to provide meaningful relief to people throughout the Com-

monwealth during this public health emergency," said Polito said. "This extension will afford taxpayers additional time to file their Massachusetts individual income tax returns as we carry out the historic response to the COVID-19 outbreak."

"The top priority during this public health crisis is to address the immediate needs facing our residents," said Spilka. "Our message is clear: residents should stay home and avoid social contact to be safe. Extending the tax deadline helps us ac-

complish that goal and provides peace of mind. I want to thank Chair Rodrigues, as well as our partners in the House and the Administration for their continued collaboration in confronting the challenges facing our Commonwealth."

"The House, in partnership with the Senate and the Administration, agreed to an extension of the state tax filing deadline to ease the burden on individuals while agreeing to borrowing measures that would protect the Commonwealth's revenue stream," said DeLeo. "Thank you to Chair Michlewitz for his leadership in ensuring the Com-

monwealth's fiscal viability while providing tax relief to those unduly effected by this crisis."

The announcement moves the state income tax filing deadline to match the July 15 deadline for filing federal individual income taxes. Legislation will be filed in the near future to finance the extension, and accompanying administrative changes will be implemented through the Department of Revenue. Specifically, the legislation will authorize the Commonwealth borrowing flexibility to manage deferred revenue this fiscal year and repay it in the next fiscal year, which starts July

1, 2020.

Individuals with questions or concerns regarding taxes can contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue at (617) 887-6367 or send a secure e-message through MassTaxConnect.

The Commonwealth will continue to update the public on further developments and individuals are encouraged to consult both the Department of Public Health and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention websites for the most up to date information.

The latest information and guidance regarding COVID-19 is always available at mass.gov/COVID19.



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