

CARES Act Stimulus Payments

No action needed by most people for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or “CARES Act,” Economic Impact Payments (also referred to as ‘Coronavirus Stimulus’ Payments) However, some taxpayers (seniors, Social Security recipients, some veterans and individuals with disabilities, low-income taxpayers, or others who do not typically or are otherwise not required to file a tax return will need to submit a simple tax return to receive the stimulus payment. The IRS will use tax return information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed. If you didn’t use direct deposit in the past, the IRS Treasury plans to develop a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the IRS online, so that individuals can receive payments immediately as opposed to checks in the mail. Check back at www.irs.gov/coronavirus for updated information when it becomes available instructing people on how to file a 2019 tax return for those who did not file 2018 or 2019 tax returns. Reference: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>.

Tax Return Filing and Payments

Tax relief applies to you. The Treasury Department and the IRS have announced special tax relief for tax year 2019 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The individual **filing and payment deadline** of April 15th was **extended** until July 15, 2020, by filing an extension Form 4868 through their tax professional, tax software or using the Free File link on IRS.gov (see below for more on free filing). New installment agreements and Offers in Compromise are still being accepted. For more information see <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-day-now-july-15-treasury-irs-extend-filing-deadline-and-federal-tax-payments-regardless-of-amount-owed> and <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-unveils-new-people-first-initiative-covid-19-effort-temporarily-adjusts-suspends-key-compliance-program>.

IRS has a cost-free **tax return filing programs**: Free File Software can be used if your income is \$69,000 or less and Free File Fillable (paper) Forms if your income is greater than \$69,000.

For more information go to:

<https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free>.

Additionally, the IRS is postponing certain payments due related to Installment Agreements and Offers in Compromise to collection and limiting certain enforcement actions through July 15th. During this period, to the maximum extent possible, the IRS will avoid in-person contacts and private debt collection is suspended. However, the IRS will continue to take steps where necessary to protect all applicable statutes of limitations. Read more at: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-unveils-new-people-first-initiative-covid-19-effort-temporarily-adjusts-suspends-key-compliance-program>.

Refund Status

Get up-to-date **refund information** using <https://www.irs.gov/refunds> (you will need to input your Social Security Number, filing status, and exact refund amount).

Contacting the IRS

In response to the COVID-19 coronavirus crisis, **all local IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TACs) are temporarily closed** without appointment until further notice to ensure the continued safety and health of IRS employees and taxpayers. Nearly every tax issue can now be resolved [online or by phone](#) from the convenience of your home or office. If you need help from a Taxpayer Assistance Center (TAC), call to schedule an appointment. Due to limited staffing, you may experience longer than usual wait time or be unable to get through via telephone. Please look for help first on www.IRS.gov. Here is a list of IRS **telephone numbers**:

Callers who are hearing impaired: TTY/TDD [800-829-4059](tel:800-829-4059)

Individuals: [800-829-1040](tel:800-829-1040) (7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time)

Businesses: [800-829-4933](tel:800-829-4933) (7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time)

Non-profit taxes: [877-829-5500](tel:877-829-5500) (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. local time)

Estate and gift taxes (Form 706/709): [866-699-4083](tel:866-699-4083) (8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern time)

Excise taxes: [866-699-4096](tel:866-699-4096) (8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern time)

For appointments, call [844-545-5640](tel:844-545-5640). You can find the office closest to you with our [Taxpayer Assistance Locator](#) tool.

Reference : <https://www.irs.gov/help/telephone-assistance>

Protect Personal Information

Don't get scammed. Remember to be vigilant with personal information by securing computers and mobile phones. **Here are ways to know if it's really the IRS contacting you:**

- The IRS instructs taxpayers to make payments to the "United States Treasury." The IRS provides specific guidelines on how you can make a tax payment at [irs.gov/payments](https://www.irs.gov/payments).
- If an IRS representative visits you, he or she will always provide two forms of official credentials called a pocket commission and a [HSPD-12](#) card. **Note: the IRS is temporarily suspending private debt collection and limiting face-to-face contacts during COVID-9 restrictions.** The IRS representative can provide a dedicated IRS telephone number ((844) 809-4566) for verifying the information and confirming their identity using their HSPD-12 card number.

For future reference, the private debt collection companies used by the IRS are:

<u>CBE</u>	<u>ConServe</u>	<u>Performant</u>	<u>Pioneer</u>
P.O. Box 2217 Waterloo, IA 50704 800-910-5837	P.O. Box 307 Fairport, NY 14450 844-853-4875	P.O. Box 9045 Pleasanton, CA 94566 844-807-9367	PO Box 500 Horseheads, NY 14845 800-448-3531

- If you think you have been contacted as part of scam, please report it:
 - o For phone scams:
 - Contact Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) to report a phone scam using their “[IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting](#)” web page or you can also call 800-366-4484.
 - Contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) using the “[FTC Complaint Assistant](#)” on FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.
 - o For unsolicited emails claiming to be from the IRS, or an IRS-related component like the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, report it to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov.
- The IRS also cannot revoke your driver’s license, business licenses, or immigration status. The IRS has temporarily suspended the Department of State Passport revocation / suspension referrals. The IRS will not threaten to bring the police, immigration officers or other law-enforcement to have you arrested for not paying. Threats like these are common tactics scam artists use to trick victims into buying into their schemes.
- Here are your rights as a taxpayer: <https://www.irs.gov/taxpayer-bill-of-rights>

Places for more information

www.irs.gov/coronavirus

www.irs.gov

IRS2Go (official IRS phone application)

<https://t.co/hEEWmgHA9V> pic.twitter.com/nAzhSDeeNt (Twitter)

<https://www.coronavirus.gov>

<https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus> (or Spanish version at <https://gobierno.usa.gov/coronavirus>)