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Closures, Businesses, and Public Gathering Restrictions

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Beware of Stimulus Check Scams

Congress has approved a stimulus plan that will provide most Americans with a check to offset lost income due to the Covid-19 state of emergency. Check will be sent in a few weeks. This means that you will receive a direct deposit check to your bank account (if you included that information when filing your last tax return) or a paper check that will be mailed to you. Scammers are already trying to take advantage of this situation. How to Spot a COVID-19 Federal stimulus scam:

- Government agencies will not contact you through social media, phone, text or email.
- Government agencies will not ask you to verify your personal information or provide banking details. It is not "necessary" to provide this information in order to receive your stimulus check.
- Government agencies will not ask for your social security number.
- Government agencies will not contact you to get your funds "immediately" or "faster".
- Government agencies will not ask you to pay a "processing fee".

If a scammer calls or contacts you, don't engage. You should just hang up or delete the email. Do not click on any links.

WATCH OUT FOR: Imposter Government websites. Make sure it is a legitimate government website before believing any information provided to you. When in doubt, assume it is a scam. Legitimate government websites: www.irs.gov/coronavirus and <https://home.treasury.gov/>

REPORT SCAMS TO: Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.ftc.gov/>

Governor's Orders Extended

Governor Baker's order to close non-essential businesses and prohibit gatherings of more than 10 has been extended until May 4th.

Resources for Chelsea Businesses & Employees

[Learn more about:](#)

- The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
- SBA Debt Relief
- Economic Injury Disaster Loans
- The Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance
- Express Bridge Loan Program

MBTA The Ride

For the safety of drivers and passengers, The Ride has updated some of its policies, including eliminating shared trips, extending eligibility and postponing eligibility appointments, booking windows, and subscription trips. Read more at <https://mbta.com/accessibility/the-ride>.

RMV Renewals Extended

All car registrations that expired in March and passenger plates that are expiring in April have been extended for 60 days. Registrations that expired in March have been extended until May 31 and registrations that expire in April have been extended until June 30. Registration renewals can continue to be performed online at Mass.Gov/RMV.

State Income Tax Deadline Extended

The Governor and Legislature have announced an agreement to extend the 2019 Massachusetts 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. The change will move the state income tax filing deadline to match the new July 15 deadline for filing federal individual income taxes.

RMV No Walk-in Policy

The Massachusetts RMV would like to remind everyone that they no longer take walk-ins. Most

transactions can be done online but for those that must be in-person, appointment reservations can be made online at [myRMV Online Service](#) Center or by calling 857-369-8000.

Returning from Travel

Governor Baker requests that travelers returning to Massachusetts from out of state self-quarantine for 14 days as a precaution during the coronavirus emergency to help protect the most vulnerable of our population.

Reusable Bags Banned Temporarily

Until the current State of Emergency is lifted, grocery stores and pharmacies may no longer fill your reusable bag. Please leave your bags at home and use the bags provided by the store instead. [Read the full order here.](#)

Paid Sick Leave

The new federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act expands the eligibility criteria to include those who are under quarantine, those who are taking care of a family member with Covid-19 family, and other situations. [Read the details here.](#)

Non-Essential Business Closure

Governor Baker has issued a new Emergency Order requiring that all businesses that do not provide “COVID -19 Essential Services” must close tomorrow, Tues. Mar. 24, 2020 at 12:00 Noon and not reopen until May 4th.

The Order also limits gatherings in confined indoor or confined outdoor space to no more than 10 people. Although the Order does not prohibit persons from leaving their homes, it does strongly encourage that, while traveling from home and even in large, unenclosed open spaces exempt from the Order, persons maintain good social distancing practices of a six foot distance from other individuals.

See the Governor’s order [here](#).

See the list of essential services [here](#).

See the guidance on restricted gatherings and food/beverage establishments [here](#).

Day Care Centers to Close

Gov. Charlie Baker has [ordered](#) all Massachusetts daycare and child care centers closed starting on Monday, March 23. Some programs will be exempt in order to provide priority child care for emergency personnel, medical staff and others critical to fighting the outbreak.

Retail and Food Establishments

Please see [guidance](#) on disease prevention from the City of Chelsea for all Retail and Food

Establishments.

Supermarkets and Large retailers

An [Emergency Order](#) was delivered this morning to Market Basket, Compare and the other large retailers that remain open in the City with required protocol to keep customers and staff safe.

Reminder about Parks and Playgrounds

All childrens' playground areas, all basketball/tennis courts and all athletic fields are closed to the general public due to the COVID-19 crisis. Some large recreation areas remain open in the City, but public use is limited to passive recreation such as walking and jogging, and only provided that social and physical distancing rules (six feet away from others) are followed. No athletic activities that bring participants into close physical contact are allowed, even when involving 10 or fewer people.

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