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Need Legal Help & Support During COVID-19?

Last updated June 3, 2020

***Traducción en español abajo. Scroll down for Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin.

The public health crisis is unfolding rapidly. Governmental, community, educational, and medical institutions are adapting quickly. This information is accurate as of April 29.

Check out our latest health care tips!

We've launched a state-wide initiative to support hundreds of small businesses affected by the crisis: <https://www.covidreliefcoalition.com/en>

Medical Support

All health insurance carriers are required to provide medically necessary telehealth, testing, counseling, treatment, and vaccination (once it's developed and available) services related to COVID-19 to all Massachusetts residents without charging copays and coinsurance or applying a deductible.

If you or family members are eligible for MassHealth programs, you can apply any time of the year. If you've lost health insurance that you had through a job, you are given a special



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Care Division

You will not be turned away from the emergency room because of your immigration status. If you are undocumented and need healthcare, you may be eligible for MassHealth Limited, which provides care for medical emergencies, including visits to an emergency room. Public charge does **not** apply to MassHealth Limited. Visit the MA Connector website or call 1-800-841-2900 for English and Spanish service.

Food Security

Many cities and towns will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch to students in their respective districts. Click on the city to see their meal schedules and locations: Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lawrence, Lowell, Medford, Revere, and Somerville.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) provides a monthly benefit to buy nutritious foods. If you are out of work and not getting paid, you may be eligible for SNAP. Certain workers may qualify for expedited (emergency) SNAP. To find out if you're eligible, call Project Bread's Free Food Source Hotline: 1-800-645-8333.

P-EBT is a food benefit that supports families and students during school closure due to COVID-19. This includes any student in a school that provides free or reduced meals to all students. Boston Public Schools (BPS) and Charter schools serve free meals, therefore all BPS and Charter School students will receive this benefit. No action is required of the families to receive P-EBT.

Families will receive \$5.70 per student per day for every day school is closed.

- Families receiving DTA benefits will get their benefits on their existing EBT cards.
- Families not currently receiving DTA benefits will be mailed a new P-EBT card.

NOTE: Using P-EBT benefits does not impact your or your child's immigration status. The Public Charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) is issuing emergency SNAP supplements to many SNAP households to help buy food during the pandemic crisis. If your monthly SNAP benefit is less than the maximum SNAP for your household, you will get a supplemental benefit up to the maximum SNAP grant. If you get the maximum SNAP



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Women can access pre-packaged food pantry bags outside of Rosie's Place's building at 889 Harrison Ave in Boston, Monday-Friday from 8am-2pm.

Protecting Workers

Congress passed legislation establishing a federal emergency paid-leave benefits program to provide payments to some employees. It requires private employers with fewer than 500 employees – and all public employers – to provide **two weeks' worth of paid sick leave** if

employees are unable to work because they're subject to quarantine or isolation, are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or are caring for someone who is in quarantine or isolation. For self-care, you can earn the full amount you are usually paid, up to a maximum of \$511 a day (\$5,110 total). If you're caring for someone else, you can receive \$200 per day (\$2,000 total). Certain employers may be exempt, including businesses with fewer than 50 employees, as well as employers of health care providers and emergency responders. [Click here for more information on how this law applies to you](#)

Additionally, the law grants 12 weeks of **emergency paid family leave** to employees caring for children whose schools are closed or whose child care provider is unavailable because of coronavirus. The first ten days may be unpaid. For the subsequent leave, you can earn two-thirds of your usual pay, up to a daily limit of \$200 per day (\$10,000 total). In order to qualify, you must have been on the job for 30 days and work for an employer with fewer than 500 employees. Certain employers may be exempt, including businesses with fewer than 50 employees, as well as employers of health care providers and emergency responders. [Click here for more information on how this law applies to you.](#)

Massachusetts workers must earn at least one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked. If your employer is violating the law, call the Attorney General's fair labor hotline at 617-727-3465 or file a complaint online. More information can be found [here](#), including multilingual options. You can also read the Fair Labor Division FAQs for employee rights and employer obligations during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Assistance

Lawyers for Civil Rights is spearheading a pro bono initiative to connect affected workers with volunteers who can help complete the unemployment application. If you are unemployed and need free legal support, please submit your request [here](#).



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- If your hours were cut because of COVID-19, you may be able to get some UI.
- If you get any UI at all, you will also get \$600 for every week you could not work between March 29 and July 25. See the list of COVID19 related reasons you may have had to leave work.
- You will get 13 more weeks of federal UI added to the number of weeks you already get state UI.
- If you do not qualify for regular Unemployment, you may be able to get Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (see section below for information on PUA).

COVID-19 related reasons for stopping work

The new law means you may qualify for UI if you are not working because:

- You were diagnosed with COVID-19 or you have symptoms.
- A member of your household was diagnosed with COVID-19.
- You are caring for a family or household member who tested positive or was diagnosed with COVID-19.
- You have primary responsibility for a child whose school or child care is closed and you need to care for them
- You have primary responsibility for a member of your household who needs care.
- Your employer, or a government order told you to “self-quarantine.”
- You have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine.
- Your immune system is compromised due to a serious health condition.
- You have a reasonable belief that because of COVID-19 going to work could harm your health
- You were scheduled to start work but you no longer have that job or you cannot go to work due to COVID-19.
- The head of your household died from the corona virus so now the whole household depends on you for support.
- Your place of work closed or reduced your hours because of COVID-19
- You had to quit your job because you tested positive for COVID-19 or you came into contact with someone who tested positive.

How much money do I need to have earned to apply for UI?

You need to have earned \$5,100 in the past year. You cannot get UI if



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- You quit a job that offers paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits.
- You are not a US citizen and you do not have a valid Social Security Number and work authorization.
- You quit work just to collect UI. This is UI fraud.

How much UI can I get?

- Everyone who gets any state or federal UI can get an extra \$600 per week from March 29, 2020 to July 25, 2020. This means if you only get \$1, you still get the \$600/week. This \$600/week is in addition to any state or federal UI you get in these 4 months.
- The UI you get is about half the amount you earned every week when you were working. The most you can get is \$823/week plus \$40/week for each child for whom you provide more than 50% support, and who is:
 - under 18,
 - under 24 and a full-time student, or
 - cannot work because of mental or physical disabilities. There is no age limit.

But there is a limit on the weekly amount you can get for your children. You can only get \$40/week per child up to 50% of your weekly unemployment benefit. If you are working part-time while you are getting UI, you can still get partial UI benefits because wages up to 1/3 of your benefit are not deducted from your UI check. You cannot earn more than your Unemployment benefit.

How does the receipt of unemployment and/or stimulus funding interact with my receipt of benefits?

- Unemployment benefits are not considered wages, so they will not affect Social Security retirement benefits.
- If you receive SSI, you may apply for unemployment, although you may cease to receive SSI for the duration of the UI. Once unemployment benefits run out, SSI will be reinstated if you contact the Social Security Administration.
- A claimant receiving SSI and SSDI who provides medical documentation that they can work will not be disqualified from receiving unemployment.
- Receiving a stimulus check through the CARES Act does not constitute income and will



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- You used up all your state and federal UI benefits, or
- Your benefit year has ended. It has been 52 weeks, or more, since you last applied for UI, OR
- You are:
 - Self-employed in your own business or on a farm.
 - An independent contractor and you can show reportable income.
 - A “gig worker” who can still work, but you do not have as much income because of COVID-19 and you can show reportable income.
 - Clergy or working for a religious organization. Or
 - Only looking for part-time work. Or
- The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) denied your application for UI because:
 - You did not earn at least \$5,100 in 2019, so they said you are “monetarily ineligible.”
 - Your earnings were in the wrong months of the year before you applied for UI so DUA said you are “monetarily ineligible.”
 - You did not work enough weeks last year to qualify for (UI). Before the CARES Act, you needed about 15 weeks of work to qualify.
 - You left your work for a reason that DUA said disqualified you for UI, and due to COVID-19 you could not get the 8 weeks of work you needed to qualify.

COVID-19 related reasons for stopping work.

The new law means you may qualify for PUA if you are not working because you were:

- Diagnosed with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or were experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- A member of your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- You were providing care for a family or household member who was diagnosed with COVID-19.
- A child or other person you care for is unable to attend school or another facility as a result of COVID-19.
- You have become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19.



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your ability to perform your normal work:

- You don't have a recent history of full-time work and you were scheduled to start a job with a new employer. You cannot start that job or the offer was withdrawn as a result of COVID-19.
- Your place of employment closed because of COVID-19.
- You quit your job because of COVID-19.

You cannot get PUA if

- You can telework full-time with pay. But if your hours are reduced, you may be able to get some PUA.
- You are getting paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits for the same hours you usually worked. But, if your paid leave is based on hours that were reduced because of COVID-19, you may be able to get some PUA.
- You quit a job that offers paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits.
- You are not a US citizen and you do not both a valid Social Security Number and an identification number ("A number") issued by the United States Citizenship Immigration Services (USCIS).
- You quit work just to collect PUA. This is fraud.

How much PUA can I get?

- If did not earn anything after you stopped work, you will get at least \$268/ week PUA. The most you can get is \$823/week. If you worked at all after March 8 and you earned more than \$89/week, PUA subtracts every dollar over \$89 that you earned, from the \$268 minimum PUA benefit.
- For 4 months everyone who gets any Unemployment Insurance, gets \$600/week plus your PUA benefit. So, for every week you cannot work between March 29 and July 25, 2020 you get at least \$268 plus \$600 for a total of \$868/week.
- You also get: \$40/week for each child for whom you provide more than 50% support, who is
 - under 18,
 - under 24 and a full-time student, or
 - cannot work because of mental or physical disabilities. There is no age limit.

But there is a limit on the weekly amount you can get for your children. You can only get



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- \$600/week for the weeks you did not work between 3/29/2020 and
- 7/25/2020 and
- the minimum \$268/week.

Housing

On April 20, 2020 Massachusetts passed a state-wide emergency law to stop evictions and foreclosures during the COVID-19 state of emergency.

I am a tenant. How does this law protect me?

- Your landlord is not allowed to send you any eviction notices. They must not send you a:
 - Notice to Quit,
 - 14-day notice,
 - 30-day notice,
 - Notice to vacate, or
 - Any other kind of notice that says you must move out.
- Landlords cannot file any new eviction cases in court, including:
 - Non-payment of rent, or
 - No-fault/no cause.
- Courts can only schedule hearings if the case is an emergency.
- Courts cannot enter judgments, including agreements for judgment and default judgments.
- Courts cannot issue orders to evict, “executions.”
- Landlords are not allowed to give executions to sheriffs to serve “48 hour notices”.
- Sheriffs, constables and movers must not physically move you out of your home.
- Landlords cannot charge late fees or give negative reports to credit reporting companies if you can show you were unable to pay because you were affected by COVID-19 in some way.

You are still responsible for paying your rent. Landlords may still go to court to remove tenants in an emergency. Emergencies involve criminal activity or lease violations that endanger the health and safety of others.

I am a homeowner or a landlord. How does this moratorium protect me?

- Lenders cannot foreclose on owner-occupied 1-4 family residential properties



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- If you are a landlord you may use your tenants' last month's rent to cover expenses, but you must repay these funds with interest.

How long does the moratorium last?

The moratorium is in effect until August 18, 2020 or until 45 days after the Governor lifts the state of emergency, whichever comes first. The Governor can extend the end date of the moratorium so that it does not end before the end of the state of emergency.

What if I already had a non-emergency eviction case in court before the moratorium was passed?

- All deadlines in your case are paused as long as the moratorium is in effect.
- No court hearings can be scheduled unless they involve an emergency.
- Courts cannot enter judgments, including agreements for judgment, or issue orders to evict (called "executions").
- Sheriffs and movers cannot move you out of your home.

What can I do if I am late with the rent?

If the reason you are late with rent is related to COVID-19, give your landlord a letter within 30 days of the date rent was due. Explain that "the nonpayment was due to a financial impact from COVID-19." You can complete and send your landlord this form. But you may also give your landlord a letter now, saying you were unable to pay or pay on time because of COVID-19 or the restrictions related to COVID-19.

How can I get help?

If you get an eviction notice, a court complaint or any other papers related to an eviction, contact your local legal aid office.

You may be able to get help paying rent or other housing expenses. See the resources below.

The RAFT (Residential Assistance for Families in Transition) program to created a special program to help keep households in stable housing situations when facing eviction, foreclosure, loss of utilities, and other housing emergencies caused by loss of income, increase in expenses, or both because of COVID-19. RAFT assists households of all sizes



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tenants in the City of Boston who do not have access to expanded unemployment benefits, or because of the nature of their jobs, the unemployment benefits they will receive represent a significant reduction in their actual income. Applicants will also need to certify that they do not have savings to meet this need, and do not have access to other resources, including gifts from family members or other associates. Due to the high volume of applications and demonstrated need, this fund has transitioned to a lottery system. They will accept pre-screening forms for the first round of funding until Friday, April 10, at 12 p.m. All eligible applicants will be entered into a lottery on Monday, April 13. [Apply here.](#)

Boston residents can also submit a rental assistance request with City Mission, who are offering one-time grants for back rent. [Apply here.](#)

For Boston homeowners and renters:

For homeowners in need of help, call the Boston Home Center at 617-635-HOME (4663), ext. 3 or go [click here](#). For tenants in need of help with an eviction or not being able to pay rent, call the Office of Housing Stability at 617-635-4200 or visit [here](#).

The MA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is moving to temporarily suspend terminations of federal and state rental vouchers, including assistance provided under the Section 8 (DHCD portfolio only), Massachusetts Rental Voucher and Alternative Housing Voucher programs, in all cases other than those involving violent or drug-related criminal activity that seriously affects the health and safety of other residents. DHCD will also automatically extend the deadline by which a household issued a voucher must identify a housing unit where they can use the voucher. The 60 day voucher search term would be extended automatically until 30 calendar days past the expiration of the state of emergency.

If you have questions about an eviction notice from your landlord, a document from Housing Court, or think your landlord did something illegal, call LCR's Hotline at 617-981-4308 or email office@lawyersforcivilrights.org.

Cash Assistance

United Way has launched a COVID-19 Family Support Fund to provide a flexible source of cash assistance to help families weather the crisis. One-time grants of up to \$2000 will be made to help families impacted by the COVID-19 crisis meet their basic food, childcare or



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Massachusetts. Waiters, waitresses, bartenders and other tipped workers should apply here.

One Fair Wage is providing cash assistance to restaurant workers, car service drivers, delivery workers, personal service workers and more who need the money they aren't getting to survive. Apply for help here.

Restaurant Opportunities Centers United is providing resources and financial assistance to restaurant workers impacted by the coronavirus crisis.

Union Capital Boston is providing \$150 Visa gift cards — up to \$500 per address — to folks in Greater Boston looking for assistance because of school closings or lost wages. Apply for assistance here.

The National Domestic Worker Alliance has created a Coronavirus Care Fund to provide \$400 in emergency assistance for qualifying home care workers, nannies and house cleaners who are experiencing financial hardship due to the coronavirus pandemic. Assistance from the Fund is to help you stay home and stay safe during the pandemic. At this time, the Coronavirus Care Fund application is open to domestic workers who have participated in activities of the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), NDWA chapters, affiliate organizations, circles and current Alia users. Apply for the fund here.

Economic Impacts "Stimulus" Payments

Eligible individuals with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 will automatically receive the full \$1,200 payment. Eligible married couples filing a joint return with adjusted gross income up to \$150,000 will automatically receive the full \$2,400 payment. Parents also get \$500 for each eligible child under 17. Most taxpayers don't need to take any extra steps to receive a payment. The IRS will use information from a taxpayer's 2019 tax return if they've filed it, or their 2018 tax return, if they haven't. Learn more here.

Small Businesses

A \$350 billion economic recovery bill was passed by the federal government on March 27th



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temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses; the interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%. The SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay. [Apply here.](#)

- 2. Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance:** All small business owners in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to \$10,000. This advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. Funds will be made available within days following a successful application. This loan advance will not have to be repaid. This program is for any small business with less than 500 employees (including sole proprietorships, independent contractors and self-employed persons), private non-profit organization or 501(c)(19) veterans organizations affected by COVID-19. [Click here to apply.](#)
- 3. Paycheck Protection Program (PPP):** The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. You can apply through any existing SBA 7(a) lender or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating. Other regulated lenders will be available to make these loans once they are approved and enrolled in the program. This program is for any small business with less than 500 employees (including sole proprietorships, independent contractors and self-employed persons), private non-profit organization or 501(c)(19) veterans organizations affected by coronavirus/COVID-19. [Click here to apply.](#)

The **City of Boston** has established a Small Business Relief Fund to help businesses most impacted by COVID-19. Depending on the size and revenue of your business, you may be eligible for grants of \$2,500, \$5,000, or \$10,000. Applications will be accepted beginning on April 6th. [Click here for more details.](#)

Small businesses impacted by COVID-19 may also apply for loans through Kiva, a non-profit micro-lending organization. Kiva is offering loans with 0% interest to for up to \$15,000.



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SCORE is continuing to help small businesses by offering remote mentoring, webinars and online workshops, and collecting critical resources.

If you have an existing brick & mortar business that has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and you launch a capital raise on Mainvest, you may be eligible to receive a \$2,000 zero-interest loan immediately. Then through your capital raise, you can receive over \$100,000 of investment from your community.

Creative Capital has a list of resources for artists working in all disciplines, as well as arts philanthropists, and arts professionals

The Boston Artist Relief Fund will award grants of \$500 and \$1000 to individual artists who live in Boston whose creative practices and incomes are being adversely impacted by Coronavirus.

The Arts and Culture Leaders of Color Emergency Fund can provide up to \$200 for people of color that are either working artist or art administration and are affected by COVID-19.

The Boston Music Maker Relief Fund provides financial relief to music makers in the Boston area affected by lost revenue from gig cancellations resulting from public health concerns related to coronavirus.

Massachusetts announced administrative tax relief measures for small local businesses which have been impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, especially in the restaurant and hospitality sectors. This tax relief includes postponing the collection of regular sales tax, meals tax, and room occupancy taxes that would be due in March, April and May so that they will instead be due on June 20. [Learn more here.](#)

Lawyers for Civil Rights is offering virtual free legal workshops to help small businesses during COVID-19. Email bizgrow@lawyersforcivilrights.org to learn about our upcoming programming.

Access to Internet and Phone Services

Lifeline is a federal program that provides no cost or low-cost phone service to low-income households. All MassHealth members are eligible to participate in the Lifeline program, which provides a \$9.25 discount from a certified Lifeline service provider. Lifeline



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Wireless. Verizon is the home phone and broadband service provider for the state. Click [here](#) for details on each plan.

In response to COVID-19, most broadband and telephone service providers are providing customers with unlimited or additional minutes and data until May 13, 2020. In addition, on March 13, 2020, the FCC launched the Keep Americans Connected Initiative to ensure that people do not lose their broadband or telephone connectivity during the pandemic. The majority of broadband and telephone service providers in the country have signed on to commit to the following for next 60 days: (1) not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic; (2) waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic; and (3) open its Wi-Fi hotspots to public.

Public Charge and Immigration Issues

The federal government has stated that seeking testing, treatment or preventative care for coronavirus will **not** be used against anyone in any public charge analysis. Also, remember that public charge rules do not apply to green card holders, U.S. citizens, refugees, asylum seekers, VAWA recipients or holders of a U or T visa. Also, even for people for whom public charge rules apply, many benefits, including CHIP, WIC, LiHEAP, SSDI, free school lunch, and disaster relief, are not included in public charge. You can always call LCR's English-Spanish public charge hotline at 617-988-0609 with any questions.

Immigration

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has suspended in-person services at its field offices, asylum offices and Application Support Centers (ASCs) until at least April 1. In the meantime, USCIS will provide limited emergency services. Click [here](#) for assistance accessing emergency services.

Naturalization ceremonies have been suspended and all non-detained hearings scheduled are postponed. The following immigration courts are closed: ATL Peachtree; Charlotte; HOU Gessner; Louisville; Memphis; NYC, Broadway & Fed Plaza; Newark; Sacramento; LOS – Olive; Seattle.



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reopened before reaching out to the OCR's Contact Center.

Taxes

The IRS has extended the deadline to file federal tax returns and to submit federal income tax payments from April 15th to **July 15th**. This deferment applies to **all taxpayers**, including individuals, trusts and estates, corporations and other non-corporate tax filers as well as those who pay self-employment tax. Taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms or call the IRS to qualify for this **automatic** federal tax filing and payment relief.

BPS Students

Boston Public Schools (BPS) are providing Chromebooks to BPS students who do not have consistent access to a computer at home. All BPS families received an email with a link to fill out a request form on March 17. Click [here](#) for more information on the Chromebook program and [here](#) for other resources to support at-home learning.

Scams

Bad actors are attempting to exploit this crisis for their own monetary gain. We're not going to let them. Be on the lookout for high-priced or low-quality products, Coronavirus scams, false or misleading information, and fraudulent charities. Please report scams immediately by **filing a complaint** or calling the AG's consumer hotline at (617) 727-8400.

Victims and Witnesses of Crime

If you are the victim or witness of a crime, please file a report with the police or the District Attorney's office. You have the right to report a crime even if you are undocumented. Immigration enforcement is prohibited from entering Massachusetts state courthouses.

Filing a Discrimination Complaint

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) has closed its offices to the public for the safety of our staff and our communities. MCAD will provide pro se Complainants the opportunity to file Complaints by calling any of our offices and requesting a phone intake with an MCAD staff member. For Complainants with representation, the MCAD will temporarily permit attorneys and Duly Authorized Representatives to file "mail-in" complaints electronically, by submitting Complaints through the newly created MCAD e-Complaint Filing Portal.



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to the renewal timelines for expiring motor vehicle inspection stickers, passenger plate registrations, professional credentials, and driver's licenses and learner's permits, including Commercial Driver's Licenses and Commercial Permits (CDLs / CLPs).

While the RMV previously announced extensions for most credentials, passenger plate registrations, and inspection stickers expired or expiring in **March, April, and May**, an additional extension has been applied to those credentials, and an extension has been added to some credentials expiring in **June, July, and August**.

These extensions replicate the ongoing measures the RMV has taken to reduce the need for customers to physically visit an RMV Service Center or one of its business partners' facilities, allowing for "social-distancing" by decreasing non-essential travel and customer volume. Additional longer-term extensions will also allow the RMV to ensure "social-distancing" guidelines are met as demand for in-person service and renewals resumes during the Commonwealth's reopening phases.

Census 2020

As COVID-19 has made clear, funding for public health services is absolutely critical. Your participation in Census 2020 will help ensure that your community receives the money it needs for healthcare centers, hospitals, and emergency services, as well as public transportation and schools. Please complete the Census and help us secure the resources and political representation our communities need to remain resilient. **Census 2020 can be easily completed in the privacy of your home, either online or by phone.** All responses are 100% confidential, meaning that the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share your personal information with *anyone*, not even immigration, police, landlords, or employers. If you need help, please call our Census Hotline at 617-482-1145 or send an email to census@lawyersforcivilrights.org.

Note that the Census Bureau is now allowing households until August 14th to respond to the Census. Census workers will not begin in-person visits to households that have not yet completed the Census until May 28th.

Multilingual updates on COVID-19 for Boston residents

The City of Boston has added 5 languages to its COVID-19 text messaging update system and has created COVID-19 update web pages in 10 additional languages.



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BOSEspanol

BOSFrancais

BOSKreyol

BOSkriolu

BOSPortugues

For COVID-19 updates on the Boston.Gov website, visit:

English: [boston.gov/covid-19](https://www.boston.gov/covid-19)

Español | Spanish: [boston.gov/covid-19-es](https://www.boston.gov/covid-19-es)

中文 | Chinese: [boston.gov/covid-19-zh](https://www.boston.gov/covid-19-zh)

Kreyòl ayisyen | Haitian Creole: [boston.gov/covid-19-hc](https://www.boston.gov/covid-19-hc)

Tiếng Việt | Vietnamese: [boston.gov/covid-19-vi](https://www.boston.gov/covid-19-vi)

kriolu | Cape Verdean: [boston.gov/covid-19-cv](https://www.boston.gov/covid-19-cv)

Русский | Russian: [boston.gov/covid-19-ru](https://www.boston.gov/covid-19-ru)

العربية | Arabic: [boston.gov/covid-19-ar](https://www.boston.gov/covid-19-ar)

Português | Portuguese: [boston.gov/covid-19-pt](https://www.boston.gov/covid-19-pt)

Français | French: [boston.gov/covid-19-fr](https://www.boston.gov/covid-19-fr) Af-Soomali | Somali: [boston.gov/covid-19-so](https://www.boston.gov/covid-19-so)

The City of Chelsea is providing the following:

- Emergency food deliveries – bundles delivered to the doorstep with sufficient food for the week, size based on the number of people in the household
- Cleaning/sanitization supplies and sanitizing information
- Basic “medical” supplies such as masks (a combination of disposable and homemade cloth ones), disposable gloves, thermometers (we’ve run out and hope to have more



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To request assistance with any of the above, call the bilingual City info line (311 or 617-466-4209) between 8am and 8pm (7 days a week).

Contact Us

For legal assistance, call Lawyers for Civil Rights at 617-981-4308 or email office@lawyersforcivilrights.org.

Additional legal information and resources are available [here](#).

¿Necesita ayuda legal y apoyo durante COVID-19?

La crisis de salud pública se está desarrollando rápidamente. Las instituciones gubernamentales, comunitarias, educativas y médicas se están adaptando rápidamente.

Atención médica

Se requiere que todos los proveedores de seguros de salud brinden servicios de telesalud, pruebas, asesoramiento, tratamiento y vacunación (una vez que estén desarrollados y disponibles) médicamente necesarios y relacionados al COVID-19 a todos/as que viven en Massachusetts sin cobrar copagos ni coseguros ni aplicar un deducible.

Si usted o sus familiares son elegibles para los programas de MassHealth, puede presentar la solicitud en cualquier momento del año. Si perdió el seguro de salud que tenía a través de un trabajo, se le otorga un período de inscripción especial a través del Health Connector para que pueda inscribirse en la cobertura de atención médica que dura hasta el 25 de mayo. Sin embargo, cuanto antes presente la solicitud, antes podrá comenzar su nuevo seguro de salud. Una vez que finaliza su período de inscripción especial, es posible que no pueda volver a inscribirse a través del Health Connector hasta el próximo período de inscripción abierta. Haga clic [aquí](#) para más detalles. También la División de Atención Médica del Fiscal General tiene recursos sobre atención médica.

No será rechazado de la sala de emergencias debido a su estado migratorio. Si no tiene documentos y necesita atención médica, puede ser elegible para MassHealth Limited,