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| **Filing season is coming to a close**It’s the final stretch in the filing season and almost time for that much needed vacation from tax returns.  Of course, some taxpayers may be on [extension](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mass.us11.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3D0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19-26id-3Dea47a21228-26e-3D9521af11b2&d=DwMFaQ&c=Xhn9KFvv0VrhnMFbYtQjTGdTU13Xl3cIMh34YNGAA48&r=d89QJLLxuwMMW8H2cPHM1rQMwL_8z2jmLRr1OQdopJA&m=vcTbx6ygCw3XmUg9jp-Pw9N_e36EepkYbBE_whvT_g8&s=POMyQSg7b6Dp6Roc5ybh89bz2bVLW36Ren-D4svNwoc&e=) but that is now an automatic process for most. It’s been a successful filing season on our end. Just over 2.7 million returns in so far with 1.9 million refunds out the door, totaling just over $1.1 billion. The Contact Center has taken more than 123,000 calls – that’s a lot but down considerably from last year.  We hope that’s because we’re doing a better job of resolving issues on the first call, getting refund and fraud notices out very quickly and improving information on the website.  **The latest on the new paid family medical leave program**It’s a big and important initiative and we’ll keep updating you with news. Businesses with equal or better plans for paid family medical leave can register for an exemption, and if approved, may retain their plan and opt out of the state’s plan. It will all be done on MassTaxConnect, once the exemption registration option is available on April 29. Stay tuned, FAQs will be up shortly on the DOR website to help you navigate the exemption and collection processes.  [FAQs on the DFML site](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mass.us11.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3D0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19-26id-3Dac43a7ddad-26e-3D9521af11b2&d=DwMFaQ&c=Xhn9KFvv0VrhnMFbYtQjTGdTU13Xl3cIMh34YNGAA48&r=d89QJLLxuwMMW8H2cPHM1rQMwL_8z2jmLRr1OQdopJA&m=vcTbx6ygCw3XmUg9jp-Pw9N_e36EepkYbBE_whvT_g8&s=mMXKz9f7LrbBNOJKcDLY6_AYOjut2TMUGQVRTvxftsw&e=) are being updated, worth taking a look at those. Employer and employee [toolkits](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mass.us11.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3D0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19-26id-3Db3f26c28d6-26e-3D9521af11b2&d=DwMFaQ&c=Xhn9KFvv0VrhnMFbYtQjTGdTU13Xl3cIMh34YNGAA48&r=d89QJLLxuwMMW8H2cPHM1rQMwL_8z2jmLRr1OQdopJA&m=vcTbx6ygCw3XmUg9jp-Pw9N_e36EepkYbBE_whvT_g8&s=miUTXG6caJVECjil_LisptKBNIFTFVJnPCVrN29b0-s&e=) are now available from DFML. The toolkits have resources for businesses and individuals to understand and implement paid family medical leave, including contribution rate calculators, informative videos, workplace posters, and other useful information designed to assist people with implementation planning.   **Innocent spouse claims**New rules for innocent spouse claims took effect on April 10. The revisions bring Massachusetts law more in line with federal provisions. You can learn more about the [changes to innocent spouse claims](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mass.us11.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3D0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19-26id-3D4351ea70e8-26e-3D9521af11b2&d=DwMFaQ&c=Xhn9KFvv0VrhnMFbYtQjTGdTU13Xl3cIMh34YNGAA48&r=d89QJLLxuwMMW8H2cPHM1rQMwL_8z2jmLRr1OQdopJA&m=vcTbx6ygCw3XmUg9jp-Pw9N_e36EepkYbBE_whvT_g8&s=eSdJzAap4hQRU8wPzNQH2ScqKtXavgzZL9yEr7-Kv8k&e=) on the DOR website. **Small business energy exemption**We are now past the extension date of March 31 for qualified businesses holding 2018 exemption certificates to [register for the 2019/20 exemption](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mass.us11.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3D0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19-26id-3D364130d93e-26e-3D9521af11b2&d=DwMFaQ&c=Xhn9KFvv0VrhnMFbYtQjTGdTU13Xl3cIMh34YNGAA48&r=d89QJLLxuwMMW8H2cPHM1rQMwL_8z2jmLRr1OQdopJA&m=vcTbx6ygCw3XmUg9jp-Pw9N_e36EepkYbBE_whvT_g8&s=yulJPL9h0JdI4pDcR_AewUVsgkfOMbN9wapqUcxgOGI&e=). These businesses now face being taxed by a utility vendor. Our advice to qualified small businesses:  register now to avoid being taxed on future energy costs. **Short-term rentals**If you, or a client, rent out a room on a short-term basis, catch up on the [changes this year to the room occupancy excise](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mass.us11.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3D0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19-26id-3D8008083698-26e-3D9521af11b2&d=DwMFaQ&c=Xhn9KFvv0VrhnMFbYtQjTGdTU13Xl3cIMh34YNGAA48&r=d89QJLLxuwMMW8H2cPHM1rQMwL_8z2jmLRr1OQdopJA&m=vcTbx6ygCw3XmUg9jp-Pw9N_e36EepkYbBE_whvT_g8&s=_HOmcBYkhh5_uL9Ewsiaw6B6ihJRUB0u1TXNQfRM48I&e=), which was expanded to include short-term rentals. You can find previous [DOR News](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mass.us11.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3D0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19-26id-3Dfe9187801a-26e-3D9521af11b2&d=DwMFaQ&c=Xhn9KFvv0VrhnMFbYtQjTGdTU13Xl3cIMh34YNGAA48&r=d89QJLLxuwMMW8H2cPHM1rQMwL_8z2jmLRr1OQdopJA&m=vcTbx6ygCw3XmUg9jp-Pw9N_e36EepkYbBE_whvT_g8&s=BQsxe-oYqmQkpWL3sOfknzljbkrcf68DSQrN5uyP2j8&e=) on the DOR website |

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| **DOR News - April 2019**  |

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