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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Check out the major changes for TY2019** In addition to learning about the filing dates for this tax season, the change in the income tax rate, and an update on the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit for Tax Year 2019, you’ll find information on the Paid Family and Medical Leave contributions and Internal Revenue Code provisions that Massachusetts does and does not adopt in [Major 2019 Tax Changes](https://mass.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19&id=b1ee3ad4dd&e=7d79ed0572).   **Treatment of alimony income** Speaking of changes to the Internal Revenue Code that Massachusetts does not adopt, it’s worth noting that as a result of tax reform, alimony may no longer be deductible by the payer federally, nor included in federal gross income by the recipient. Massachusetts does not adopt this change and alimony continues to be deductible by the payer and included in the recipient’s gross income on the state return.   **Refunds going out** More than 500,000 refunds have gone out to taxpayers so far. Timing expectations are generally the same - allow 4-6 weeks if filing online and 8-10 weeks if filing on paper. [Where’s My Refund](https://mass.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19&id=e913453b09&e=7d79ed0572) will provide taxpayers with a current status. Major information changes from last year, like address and bank information, may delay some refunds while taxpayers provide some verification.    **Don’t leave anything on the table - credits and exemptions** April 1, 2020 is the application deadline for filing the [Annual Certification of Entity Tax Status](https://mass.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19&id=6018e6bfef&e=7d79ed0572) for specific property tax exemptions for legal entities that are treated as corporations. Businesses should also keep up with [business tax credits](https://mass.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19&id=57e35cf625&e=7d79ed0572) and income taxpayers can consider [personal income tax credits](https://mass.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19&id=8250a383b6&e=7d79ed0572), including the Senior Circuit Breaker. Don’t forget about [residential property tax credits](https://mass.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19&id=5e9245ff88&e=7d79ed0572) for the removal of lead paint, replacement or repair of a septic tank, and installation of solar, wind and energy systems.   **Responding to DOR for more information on credits? Do it online.** You may receive a Notice of Intent to Assess-Information Request for more information to verify some credits on a tax return. Don’t worry, it doesn’t mean the return wasn’t prepared correctly. It may be that more information is needed for a withholding credit, the Earned Income Credit or the Circuit Breaker Credit. Respond online through [MassTaxConnect](https://mass.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19&id=b1f70ef835&e=7d79ed0572) - choose “Submit documentation” and follow the prompts. No account is needed. Include page 2 of the notice so information can be matched to your account quickly. It’s very important to respond on time.   **New! Flavored tobacco and vaping products excise** As of June 2020, a 75% excise tax must be collected on all vaping products, in addition to the state’s 6.25% sales tax. New rules will be in place as of June 1 for retailers, smoking bars and distributors, including licensing requirements. MassTaxConnect will open for license registrants on May 1, 2020, and the deadline for having a license is June 1, 2020. [Frequently Asked Questions](https://mass.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19&id=320847f590&e=7d79ed0572) were just added to the Cigarette & Tobacco information page. See “Flavored Tobacco and Vaping Products.”   **Paid Family & Medical Leave updates - third party, bulk submissions** We continue to update the [PFML information page](https://mass.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19&id=b77659da90&e=7d79ed0572) to help you navigate the new program. For example, did you know that there’s third party access to a PFML account with the taxpayer’s approval? And, bulk file submissions might be rejected if all the information isn’t there, but it’s easy to repair and resubmit. Catch up on the latest.   **Pass-through entity annual withholding return due March 31** Pass-through entities, which are typically partnerships and S Corps, have an annual return filing obligation if they pay pass-through entity withholding. Mark your calendars for March 31, the due date for annual filers. Fiscal filers file their returns on the last day of the third month following the close of the fiscal year. You can find [more information for filing this return](https://mass.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19&id=e0f38c60d1&e=7d79ed0572) on the DOR website.   Look for previous [DOR News](https://mass.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9e2209abd5f7062568d9a19&id=2671439158&e=7d79ed0572) on the DOR website. | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **DOR News - February 2020** | | | | |