March 27, 2020

News and information are changing rapidly as the COVID-19 outbreak evolves. This daily update will include important information you need to know. For the most up-to-date guidance, please bookmark the COVID-19 IRS Source page and read the Frequently Asked Questions before submitting additional questions.

New work at home directive begins March 30

As a result of recent OPM guidance, starting Monday, March 30, 2020, the IRS is directing all employees, including employees who are currently not teleworking but whose work is portable or can be adapted to work off-site, to evacuate the work site and work from home (or an alternate location) – including employees who are not currently on a telework agreement.

By directing employees who can work from home (or an alternate location) to do so, we’re not only decreasing your potential exposure, but also reducing the risk of exposure for those employees who must remain on site.

All employees affected by this directive must take their equipment home to be prepared to work from home. Also review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) under the subcategory of “New Teleworkers” for clarification on specific questions or concerns.

Unless you are directed by your supervisor, we encourage you to stay in the safety of your telework location. Beginning Monday, March 30, building access will be restricted to pick up items like work assignments, mail related to your assigned work, and supplies, and to those performing functions that must continue during the national emergency and can only be performed on-site.

Employees who must continue to come into the office to complete mission-critical duties that can't be performed remotely will receive additional guidance from your supervisor.

The full guidance on the new telework procedures can be accessed via this link.

IRS mail operations guidance
FMSS issued information earlier today about mail operations considering the numerous office closures and telework maximization. Information includes the current status of three primary types of mail operations across the nation:

- **Campus mail operations** run by Wage & Investment (W&I) Campus Support functions;
- **Contract Mail Operations** run by Facilities Management & Security Services (FMSS) Logistics in 59 field office locations and the District of Columbia (DC); and
- **Field office mail operations** run by the occupying business units in the remaining field sites not covered by the FMSS mail contract.

Read the entire update on IRS Source.

**People First Initiative: Temporary adjustments to compliance program to help taxpayers**

To help people facing the challenges of COVID-19 issues, the Internal Revenue Service has announced a sweeping series of steps to assist taxpayers by providing relief on a variety of issues ranging from easing payment guidelines to postponing compliance actions.

Commissioner Rettig announced the new People First Initiative, which makes changes ranging from postponing certain payments related to Installment Agreements and Offers in Compromise to collection and limiting certain enforcement actions. The IRS will be temporarily modifying the following activities as soon as possible; the projected start date will be April 1 and the effort will initially run through July 15. During this period, to the maximum extent possible, the IRS will avoid in-person contacts. However, the IRS will continue to take steps where necessary to protect all applicable statutes of limitations.

Read more on IRS.gov.

**Archived COVID-19 Daily Headlines Updates**

Archived COVID-19 Daily Headlines Updates can be accessed from the IRS Source.