

COVID 19 AND TAXES

Here are answers to some of your questions about 2019 tax returns and the 2020 economic stimulus payment.

(1) The offices of the Internal Revenue Service were **closed** at the end of March due to the pandemic. Mail sent to the IRS was **not opened** and manual returns were **not processed**. As a result refunds requested on manual returns were **not** issued. The Service reopened its offices on April 27 and called back some employees to handle what it called "mission-critical functions" such as opening the piles of mail and processing manual returns. However, subsequent virus-related issues indicate that **the delay in processing returns, current and amended, and issuing refunds will continue.**

(2) In many cases when inquiring about the status of your 2020 stimulus payment at the IRS website you will need to enter information from your **2018** tax return. Unless you filed your 2019 return in February or early March the information from your 2019 return is **not** in the IRS system.

(3) Just because the IRS cashed your check for payment of a balance due sent with your 2019 manually filed return does **not** mean your 2019 return has been processed. Manual returns with payments are sent to bank lock-boxes. The check is promptly deposited and the return is sent to the IRS for processing.

(4) If you are receiving Social Security benefits that are directly deposited this does **not** mean your 2020 stimulus payment will automatically be directly deposited to your bank account. This only applies if you are a "non-filer" – for example your only source of income is Social Security and you do not have to file a federal tax return. The IRS will **only** directly deposit these payments for those who file federal income tax returns if it has the direct deposit information for a refund requested on the 2019, or more probably 2018, return.

(5) The date of mailing, or direct deposit, of your 2020 stimulus payment is based on the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on your 2019, or more likely 2018, tax return. The greater your AGI the later your payment will be issued.

(6) As of this writing the deadline for filing your 2019 federal and state income tax returns, and paying any balance due, is July 15, 2020. This has **not** been further extended to September, October or December.

(7) Perhaps most important – ***there is absolutely nothing your tax preparer can do to expedite the processing of your 2019 tax return or 2020 stimulus payment or the issuance of your 2019 refund or 2020 stimulus payment check.***

Do **not** ask your tax preparer why you have not received your stimulus payment yet, or when you will get it. If you want to find out about your stimulus payment go to-
<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>.