

# 2020 TAX RETURN FAQs

On **March 20, 2020**, the IRS announced a federal extension on tax filing, pushing the due date from April 15 to July 15 due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

**Q: Why did the government make this move?**

A: The delay is intended to keep \$300 billion at play in the economy during this uncertain time.

**Q: What does this mean for me?**

A: Americans expecting a refund are encouraged to file promptly to receive their refund as soon as possible. Reasons to take advantage of the extended deadline include:

- You will owe money and may need cash flow in the short-term to cover unanticipated expenses.
- Your life has been significantly disrupted by the pandemic and you have not had time or mental bandwidth to prepare your return.
- In light of recent circumstances, you now prefer to engage a tax professional.

**Q: If I take advantage of the extension, will I pay a price?**

A: No, you will not be subject to interest or penalty if you delay your federal filing through July 15.

**Q: I've heard stimulus checks may be coming. Do I need to get my return filed to receive one?**

A: No, stimulus checks will be based on your 2018 tax return that was filed in 2019.

**Q: Does the extension apply to federal *and* state taxes?**

A: No, individual states are not mandated to extend filing deadlines. You can see the latest tax return relief efforts for your state in this [resource from AICPA](#).

**Q: I usually file my own tax return. Do I need to hire a professional this year?**

A: Some reasons you might want professional help this year:

- If you anticipate a reduced income in 2020, a CPA can help you look forward to estimated tax payments.
- You haven't kept up on the latest changes to tax law; CPAs are acutely focused on the nuances of tax code and how to interpret changes to help clients.
- Your time is better spent elsewhere, like caring for loved ones or making work adjustments.