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Mar. 11, 2020



# IRS

## Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

**Editor's Note:** For the latest on this topic, visit  
[www.cpapracticeadvisor.com/covid-19](http://www.cpapracticeadvisor.com/covid-19).

Rumors have been floating around Washington, D.C. and tax firms across the country that the Internal Revenue Service may extend the 2020 due date for filing income taxes from the traditional date of April 15 to possibly June 15, 2020 or as late as October 15. The possible action comes as the nation, and the world, are combating the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

On Wednesday, March 11, the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) asked the IRS to

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Such a change in the deadline for individuals to file their annual federal income tax returns would be unprecedented at the national level, although the IRS often grants such extensions to more limited geographical areas following disasters, such as storms, wildfires, and earthquakes. Earlier this month, for example, taxpayers affected by the Tennessee tornadoes were granted relief until July 15 of this year.

“An extended tax deadline and penalty relief would likely be welcomed by taxpayers,” said Gail Perry, CPA, a tax professional and the editor-in-chief of [CPA Practice Advisor](#). “This would be especially true for those who are dealing with family issues relating to the pandemic. The extension would also be beneficial to the IRS as that agency might be facing reduced staffing accompanied by taxpayers unable or unwilling to venture into a government office for assistance. As for tax preparers, they would look forward to a busier than usual summer and fall in 2020.”

If the IRS and Treasury Department do extend the deadline, “It would give people more time to get their information together and certainly would help those who owe money if they are allowed to delay payments,” said Tom Wheelwright, a CPA and the CEO of [WealthAbility](#). At the same time, such a delay could bring relief to IRS workers, by “giving them more time and spreading out the work more,” Wheelwright said.

He noted that if the IRS makes such a move, a June 15 date would make sense to him because “it’s the date people traveling abroad have to file and pay taxes by. That would be consistent.”

If the IRS changes the filing deadline, most state legislatures would likely follow suit, since most taxpayers file their federal and state income tax returns at the same time. Seven states do not have an income tax: Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming.

Wheelwright’s advice for taxpayers who haven’t filed yet? “File an extension. You

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Coronavirus, it may not require taxpayers to submit any such extension rea

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