

# QuickAlerts Messages December 2020

## QuickAlerts – December 2, 2020

**Subject:** Business Modernized e-File (MeF) Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule

To ensure that all Business Returns e-filed through the Modernized e-File (MeF) system are processed timely, the following MeF Production shutdown/cutover and acknowledgment retrieval schedule has been established. It is imperative that everyone adhere to the schedule shown below.

### **Business MeF Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule**

Shutdown for "Send Submissions" only is scheduled to begin at 11:59 a.m. Eastern time, Saturday, December 26, 2020, to prepare the system for the upcoming 2021 Filing Season.

Transmitters can continue to use the other service requests except "Send Submissions" until 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, Saturday, December 26, 2020.

States can continue to use all the service requests necessary to retrieve and process state submissions in accordance with shutdown activities stated above. MeF recommends that states adjust their processing schedule in order to retrieve submissions in time to validate returns and submit acknowledgements.

Any acknowledgements not retrieved by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on December 26th cannot be accessed until MeF opens for production in January 2021.

Please note: MeF ATS (Assurance Testing System) will be operational during this cutover.

Please monitor the [MeF Operational Status page](#) for any updates. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation.

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## QuickAlerts – December 3, 2020

**Subject:** Modernized e-File (MeF) System Extended Maintenance Window

The MeF Assurance Testing System (ATS) environment will be unavailable due to scheduled maintenance from 12:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. Eastern time Sunday, December 6, 2020.

Please refrain from transmitting to the MeF ATS environment during this maintenance.

Please monitor the [MeF Operational Status](#) page for any future updates.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

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## QuickAlerts – December 4, 2020

**Subject:** Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule

The following **AIR Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule** has been established for the ACA Information Returns electronically filed through the Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) System:

- **Shutdown** for all AIR Production transmissions, including corrections and replacements, begins on Sunday, December 6, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, in order to prepare the AIR System for the upcoming Filing Season 2021.

- **Start-up** for Filing Season 2021 AIR Production begins on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 7:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

**Note:** The above information pertains to the AIR Production environment only. Any changes to routine maintenance build windows for the ACA Assurance Testing System (AATS) environment will be communicated in separate QuickAlerts bulletins.

Updates regarding the status of the AIR System will also be noted on the [AIR Operational Status](#) page.

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#### QuickAlerts – December 4, 2020

**Subject:** Scheduled Maintenance for Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) ACA Assurance Testing System (AATS)

The AIR AATS environment will be unavailable starting on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time until Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Please do not attempt to access the AIR AATS environment via the Application to Application (A2A) and User Interface (UI) Channels during the maintenance period.

Please monitor the [AIR System Operational Status](#) page for any updates.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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#### QuickAlerts – December 9, 2020

**Subject:** Tax Year 2020 Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) Publications are Now Available

The following Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) Publications are now available on the [AIR Program page](#):

- Tax Year 2020 Publication 5164, *Test Package for Electronic Filers of Affordable Care Act (ACA) Information Returns (AIR)*
- Tax Year 2020 Publication 5165, *Guide for Electronically Filing Affordable Care Act (ACA) Information Returns for Software Developers and Transmitters*
- Tax Year 2020 Publication 5258, *Affordable Care Act (ACA) Information Returns (AIR) Submission Composition and Reference Guide*

Tax Year 2020 Publication 5308, *AIR Automated Enrollment Guide*.

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#### QuickAlerts – December 14, 2020

**Subject:** New Form 1040 and Form 1040-NR Business Rules Change Pages are Available

Software Developers and State organizations may access and download schemas and business rules from their e-Services mailbox. To access these files, you must have an active e-Services account and be listed on an e-File application

with the provider option of Software Developer or State. A Software Developer provider option with an associated tax type of 1040 may access the files.

**Tax Year 2020/Processing Year 2021, Business Rules Change Pages are available.**

**Business Rules Only:**

- 1040 and 1040-NR 2020v5.0 (Change Pages Only)

Please visit the [Modernized e-file \(MeF\) Schemas and Business Rules](#) page on IRS.gov for more information about MeF Schemas and Business Rules.

You may have more than one message in your account. Please open all of them to find the set you would like to download. Messages remain for 30 days then are purged. If you have the appropriate role and do not have these files available for download in your e-Services mailbox within 48 hours, please contact the [MeF Mailbox](#) with the Company Name, ETIN and Schema Package(s) with tax year needed.

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**QuickAlerts – December 14, 2020**

**Subject:** New Modernized e-File (MeF) Business Returns Business Rule Updates are Available

Software Developers and State organizations may access and download Schemas and Business Rules from their e-Services mailbox. To access these files, you must have an active e-Services account and be listed on an e-File application with the provider option of Software Developer or State. The Software Developer provider option must have an associated tax type of 94x, 1041,1065, or 1120.

**Tax Year 2020 / Processing Year 2021 Business Rules Updates are available.**

**Current Year Business Rules Change Pages (only):**

- Form 94x Quarterly TY2020v1.1
- Form 94x Annual TY2020v2.0
- Form 94x Quarterly TY2021v2.0
- Form 1041 TY2020v3.0
- Form 1065 TY2020v5.0
- Form 1120 TY2020v5.0

**Prior Year Business Rules Change Pages (only):**

- Form 94x Annual TY2019v1.0  
TY2018v1.0
- Form 94x Quarterly TY2019v1.0  
TY2018v2.1
- Form 1041 TY2019v1.6
- Form 1041 TY2018v5.2
- Form 1065 TY2019v5.3
- Form 1065 TY2018v4.2
- Form 1120 TY2019v5.2
- Form 1120 TY2018v5.4

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#### QuickAlerts – December 14, 2020

**Subject:** IRS issues scam warning to EROs

The Internal Revenue Service today warned Electronic Return Originators of an identity theft scam targeting EFIN holders. Fraudsters posing as a “contractor” for the IRS may contact EROs, suggesting they are verifying or checking on the ERO’s EFIN acceptance letter. The scammers may request that the ERO email them a copy of the EFIN acceptance letter and provide a telephone number to call for questions. As with all scams, this one can evolve and the elements may change. EROs should remain vigilant and take steps to protect their identities and taxpayer data.

EROs who receive contacts from individuals posing as the IRS should contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at [www.tigta.gov](http://www.tigta.gov) to file a complaint. EROs who received a contact and disclosed their acceptance letter should contact the e-Services help desk immediately.

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#### QuickAlerts – December 16, 2020

**Subject:** Tax Year 2020 Publication 4163 is Available on IRS.gov

Publication 4163, Modernized e-File (MeF) Information for Authorized IRS e-File Providers for Business Returns is now available on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) User Guides and Publications](#) page on IRS.gov.

This revision reflects tax returns processed in 2021; this includes 2018, 2019 and 2020 tax returns, and a few 2021 tax year returns.

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#### QuickAlerts – December 18, 2020

**Subject:** Reminder - Business Modernized e-File (MeF) Production Shutdown/Cutover Schedule

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with shutdown activities stated above. MeF recommends that states adjust their processing schedule in order to retrieve submissions in time to validate returns and submit acknowledgements.

Any acknowledgements not retrieved by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on December 26th cannot be accessed until MeF opens for production in January 2021.

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### **QuickAlerts – December 21, 2020**

**Subject:** E-file Application Processing Time

The IRS is experiencing delays affecting the processing of e-File Applications. You do not need to take any action at this time. In lieu of calling the e-help desk, continue to monitor your e-file application through e-services on IRS.gov.

We are working diligently to ensure e-file applications are processed in time for participation in the upcoming filing season.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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