

# QuickAlerts Messages November 2020

## QuickAlerts – November 4, 2020

**Subject:** Technical Update for Modernized e-File (MeF) Assurance Testing System (ATS)

### Updates for the New ATS environment:

The MeF system is tightening cryptographic requirements to conform to government-wide guidance and upgrade from digests using the SHA-1 algorithm in digital and XML signatures. As a result, the ATS environment no longer accepts signature and digest methods using SHA-1. An error will be generated if SHA-1 is used in the ATS environment, therefore you must switch to **SHA-256** or higher.

Additional information can be found on the [MeF Status page](#) on IRS.gov.

**Note:** This update will also apply to the 2021 production submissions.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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## QuickAlerts – November 5, 2020

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

The MeF Production system will be unavailable due to scheduled maintenance from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Eastern time, November 7, 2020.

Please refrain from transmitting to the MeF Production system during this maintenance.

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

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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## QuickAlerts – November 9, 2020

**Subject:** ACA Information Returns (AIR) Production Shutdown/Cutover

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

In order to prepare for the upcoming Filing Season 2021, the AIR Production system will shutdown for all transmissions, including corrections and replacements, on Sunday, December 6, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. We will provide the January start-up date at a later time.

**Note:** AIR Assurance Testing System (AATS) will remain open throughout the Production shutdown/cutover period except during the following routine maintenance windows:

- Sunday, December 13, 2020 from 12:00 a.m. Eastern Time until 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time, and
- Sunday, December 20, 2020, from 12:00 a.m. Eastern Time until 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- Sunday, December 27, 2020, from 12:00 a.m. Eastern Time until 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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## QuickAlerts – November 12, 2020

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

The MeF Internet Filing Application (IFA) environment will be unavailable due to scheduled maintenance from 10:00 p.m. Eastern time, Saturday, November 14, 2020 through 2:00 p.m. Eastern time, Sunday, November 15, 2020. The MeF Application-to-Application (A2A) environment will remain available except during regular maintenance.

Please refrain from transmitting to the MeF Production system during this maintenance.

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

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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## QuickAlerts – November 18, 2020

**Subject:** Reminder - 1040 Modernized e-File (1040 MeF) Production Shutdown and Cutover

1040 MeF Production shutdown/cutover begins on Saturday, November 21, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, in order to prepare the system for the upcoming Tax Year 2020 Filing Season.

Business (BMF) returns are not impacted by this IMF Production Shutdown/Cutover schedule. The BMF Production Shutdown/Cutover schedule will be communicated in a QuickAlerts bulletin in early December and will be posted on the [MeF Operational Status](#) page.

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 – November 20, 2020

**Subject:** Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) System Extended Maintenance Window

The AIR Production and ACA Assurance Testing System (AATS) environments via the User Interface (UI) Channel will be unavailable due to an extended scheduled maintenance window from 12:00 a.m. Eastern Time through 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Sunday, November 22, 2020.

The AIR Production and AATS environments via the Application-to-Application (A2A) Channel will be unavailable during the routine maintenance window of 12:00 a.m. Eastern Time through 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Sunday, November 22, 2020.

Please refrain from accessing the AIR Production and AATS environments via the A2A and UI Channels during the maintenance timeframes noted above.

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

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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## QuickAlerts – November 23, 2020

**Subject:** New Form 1040 Series Business Rules and Schemas 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 and Schemas are available.**

**Business Rules and Schemas:**

- 1040 Series 2020v5.0

**Tax Year 2019/Processing Year 2020, Business Rules and Schemas are available.**

**Business Rules and Schemas:**

- 1040 Series 2019v5.4

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 – November 23, 2020

**Subject:** New MeF Business Returns Schemas and Business Rules 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, 990-T, 990x, 1041, 1065, 1120x and 1120-POL.

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

**Current Year Schemas and Business Rules:**

- Form 94x Annual TY2020v2.0
- Form 94x Quarterly TY2021v2.0
- Form 990T TY2020v1.0
- Form 990x TY2020v4.0
- Form 1041 TY2020v3.0
- Form 1065 TY2020v5.0
- Form 1120x TY2020v5.0
- Form1120-POL TY2020v4.0

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

- Form 94x Quarterly TY2020v1.1

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

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

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 – November 24, 2020**

**Subject:** Form 1041 Schemas and Business Rules 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 1041.

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

### **Current Year Schemas and Business Rules:**

- Form 1041 TY2020v3.0

Please visit the [Modernized e-file \(MeF\) Schemas and Business Rules](#) page at 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 – November 25, 2020

**Subject:** Form 94x Series Assurance Testing System (ATS) Testing

Form 94x version 1.1 Schema may be used to pass ATS testing before December 13, 2020. When the major Schema version 2.0 is available it MUST be used in Production to avoid rejects, and we strongly recommend you re-test your software.

A separate QuickAlerts Bulletin will be issued announcing when version 2.0 will be available.

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

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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## QuickAlerts – November 30, 2020

**Subject:** Reminder: Login into your e-Services Account now to avoid having to re-certify  
Beginning January 1, 2021, tax professionals with a Secure Access account will be required to recertify their account if it has been inactive for two years. Your account is considered inactive if you have not logged into an IRS online application protected by Secure Access (e-Services, Get Transcript, online account, etc.) in the last two years. Recertification requires all identity verification steps to be completed in order to reinstate your Secure Access account. Tax professionals who are unable to pass the online identity verification process may need to contact the e-help Desk for exception processing, which delays online access to e-Services until the postal activation code is received.

To prevent having to recertify, log in to your account now to ensure you have access to e-Services products prior to the filing season.

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