

COVID 19 Relief from Government

Due to impact of Covid-19 and the effects on the current economic conditions, the announcement of the 14 day 'shelter in place' and the possible social consequences, the Bermuda Government will immediately institute several temporary emergency measures to assist businesses that have a pressing need for financial relief.

Please see below Government Departments that have offered deferral and relief to businesses that are experiencing economic hardship due to the impact of Covid-19.

To the extent permissible by legislation and upon request, fees included in the Government Fee Regulations and all late fees and penalties related to any government fees or taxes may be deferred or waived.

Office of the Tax Commissioner (OTC) - Payroll Taxes

Payroll Taxes for the period January to March 2020 due April 15th, 2020, to the extent possible, businesses will file and pay taxes as normal. There will be lowered tier on tax band for employees earning up to \$48k from 4% to 2% and extended filing date from April 15th, 2020 until April 30th, 2020. Current penalties/fees for that period will be waived. In instances of significant financial distress Businesses may request extensions beyond April 30th, 2020.

For businesses that need additional time, Corporate Service Tax filing deadlines will be extended from April 15th, 2020 until April 30th, 2020.

It's not automatic. Businesses must reach out to OTC requesting an extension and provide a good reason why they need it.

It's has been put on the first page of governments website.
<https://www.gov.bm/department/office-tax-commissioner>
<https://www.gov.bm/payroll-tax>

TCD Commercial Business Fee and Licensing/Permits

All license fees are prorated. Commercial vehicles - heavy trucks are due March 31st. Insurance companies have agreed to honor policies even if vehicles are not licensed. Vehicles must be insured either via phone or online.

The licensing period has been extended to April 30th. Police have agreed not to ticket vehicle owners. Permit fees are not affected by these measures.

<https://www.gov.bm/department/transport-control>
<https://www.gov.bm/online-services/renew-your-vehicle-licence>

Department of Marine and Ports, Boats and Moorings -

Registration for boat and mooring licenses, including commercial boats, starts Wednesday, April 1st, 2020 and is extended to June 30th, 2020.

<http://www.rcbermuda.bm/>
<https://www.gov.bm/department/marine-and-ports>

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Vessel safety inspections for commercial fishing vessels have been suspended and the Marine Resources Section will notify fishermen when they will resume.

The relicensing period for commercial fishing vessels has been extended, and the new deadline for relicensing will be April 30th, 2020.

<https://www.gov.bm/articles/relicensing-period-commercial-fishing-vessels-extended>

Ministry of Home Affairs

Members of the public, and restaurants can still purchase and possess lobsters through the month of April. This will allow the commercial lobster fishermen and commercial enterprises more time to sell their stock. However, the season has ended and there shall be no more fishing for lobsters, either recreationally or commercially. Nor can any lobsters caught recreationally before the 1st April 2020 be sold”.

This extension applies to existing stock caught prior to April 1st, 2020.

<https://www.gov.bm/articles/lobsters-available-until-end-april>

Department of Immigration

Visitors who require an extension of stay in Bermuda will **not be** penalized for overstaying. Once the Department officially re-opens, further instructions for requesting an extension of stay will be provided to all affected persons.

<https://www.gov.bm/articles/department-immigration-advisory>

Ministry of Labour, Community Affairs and Sports -

Persons can reach out to Labour Relations Section for advice and guidance on how to move forward while remaining compliant. Government will provide a safety net for those left out of work as a direct result of COVID 19.

Unemployment Benefits - temporary financial cushion for eligible employees who may not qualify for financial assistance. This new benefit will be administered through the Department of Workforce Development.

There is a maximum of 12 weeks for payment of 60% of their gross earnings up to the gross amount of \$500 per week. If an employee is receiving a % of salary from their employer which is less than \$500 per week, they can apply to make up the difference.

Applications are available online or at Hamilton post office lobby.
Please see link for more details

<https://www.gov.bm/articles/unemployment-benefit>

<https://www.bermudajobboard.bm/uba>

<https://www.gov.bm/ministry/labour-community-affairs-and-sports>

Register General and IP Office NIC and IP Fees

Extensions for renewal deadlines and fee payments will be provided if any .BM registrants are experiencing financial challenges during the Covid-19 period. Emails can be sent to dnsmanager@gov.bm with the domain name within the next two weeks during the office closure to avoid disruption in domain services. .BM owners should be prepared to share with the Registry any challenges they have experienced that may have impacted their ability to pay.

<https://www.gov.bm/department/registry-general>

Liquor Licensing Board

Refund of liquor license to businesses who have already paid and wish a refund due to the unforeseen impact to their business is available. Relaxing the law to the delivery of alcohol is currently being discussed.

<https://www.gov.bm/online-services/applying-annual-liquor-licence>

<https://www.gov.bm/liquor-license-fact-sheet>

<https://www.gov.bm/online-services/applying-occasional-liquor-licence>

Department of Health - Health Insurance Premium Payments

Premiums may be deferred for the months of March and April- decision pending.

<https://www.gov.bm/department/health>

Department of Social Insurance -

No changes at this time.

<https://www.gov.bm/department/social-insurance>

Registrar of Companies – Company or LLC Filings and Renewal Fees

No changes at this time.

<https://www.gov.bm/department/registrar-companies>

<https://www.roc.gov.bm/roc/rocweb.nsf/roc?OpenFrameSet>