

# IRS NEWS FOR BUSINESS

## February 2019

### ► UPCOMING WEB CONFERENCES

Check [Webinars for Small Businesses](#) for upcoming webinars. (None scheduled at this time.)

### ► Recently added to the IRS Video Portal <https://www.irsvideos.gov/>

#### [These videos will help taxpayers learn more about how tax reform affects their taxes](#)

- The IRS has several videos that can help individual and business taxpayers learn more about the tax reform legislation. The IRS posts these videos on the [IRS Video Portal](#) and to our [YouTube channel](#). Aside from these sites, the IRS offers tax reform information on our other social media channels, such as [Twitter](#) and our new [Instagram](#) account. Taxpayers can visit the [Multimedia Center](#) on IRS.gov for links to all the agency's social media sites.

### ► HOT OFF THE PRESS

#### [IRS Activities Following the Shutdown](#)

- The IRS has reopened following the end of the government shutdown, and IRS employees are working hard to resume normal operations and help taxpayers as much as possible.

#### [IRS kicks off 2019 tax-filing season as tax agency reopens; Use IRS.gov to avoid phone delays](#)

- The IRS successfully opened the 2019 tax-filing season as the agency started accepting and processing federal tax returns for tax year 2018. More than 150 million individual tax returns for the 2018 tax year are expected to be filed, with the vast majority of those coming before the April tax deadline.

#### [IRS waives penalty for many whose tax withholding and estimated tax payments fell short in 2018](#)

- The IRS is generally waiving the penalty for any taxpayer **who paid at least 85 percent** of their total tax liability during the year through federal income tax withholding, quarterly estimated tax payments or a combination of the two. The usual percentage threshold is 90 percent to avoid a penalty.
- The waiver computation announced today will be integrated into commercially-available tax software and reflected in the forthcoming revision of Form 2210 and instructions.

#### [IRS Statement - IRS reopens IVES, some fee-based programs](#)

- The IRS began processing requests on Jan. 7 for transcript information made through the Income Verification Express Service (IVES) program. IVES is a user fee-based program used primarily by mortgage lenders and others within the financial community to confirm the income of a borrower during the processing of a loan application. It will take time to bring this service up to normal operating status.

## ► TAX REFORM - Individuals

### [Individuals can find answers to their questions about tax reform on IRS.gov](#)

- Tax reform legislation passed in December 2017 affects almost every taxpayer. The IRS is working closely with partners in the tax return preparation and tax software industries to prepare for tax reform affecting tax year 2018. This ongoing collaboration ensures that taxpayers can continue to rely on the IRS, tax professionals and tax software programs when it's time to file their returns.
- As people prepare to file their 2018 tax returns in 2019, they can visit IRS.gov for answers to their questions about tax reform.

## ► TAX REFORM - Business

### [Find out how tax reform affects your businesses' bottom line at IRS.gov](#)

- Business may find they have questions about how 2017's tax reform legislation affects their organization and their bottom line. IRS.gov is a great place to find answers. Here are several resources on the IRS website that address tax reform.

## ► EMPLOYERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS

### [Understanding Employment Taxes](#)

### [Depositing and Reporting Employment Taxes](#)

### [Correcting Employment Taxes](#)

## ► IDENTITY THEFT / DATA THEFT / SCAM ALERTS

### [Avoid scams: Know the facts on how the IRS contacts taxpayers](#)

- Crooks impersonating the IRS either by phone, email or in person cost people their time and money. The IRS urges people to stay vigilant against schemes and scams and avoid becoming a victim.
- Here are some important tips for taxpayers to keep in mind to avoid scams.

## ► THE BEST OF IRS.GOV

### [Forms, Instructions & Publications](#)

- [List All Current Forms and Publications](#)

### [Prior Year Forms and Instructions](#)

- [List All Prior Year Products](#)

## ► TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS

### [Employment Tax Requirements](#)

- This article discusses the basic requirements for a tax-exempt organization's compliance with employment tax and wage reporting compliance.

## ► SUBSCRIPTIONS

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## ► NEWS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

### From the SBA: [10 steps to start your business](#)

- Starting a business involves planning, making key financial decisions, and completing a series of legal activities.