

People First Initiative: Temporary Suspension of Collection and Compliance due to COVID-19

- On March 25th at approximately 2 PM (Eastern) the IRS released IR-2020-59
- IR-2020-59 provides important guidance concerning
 - Existing instalment agreements
 - New instalment agreements
 - Pending OICs
 - Audits
 - Field collection

Instalment Agreements

- Taxpayers may suspend payments between April 1st and July 15th
- Applies even if you are in a direct debit IA
- The IRS will not default IAs during this period
- Interest will continue to run
- New IAs will continue to be processed
 - Make sure to submit updated information if financial circumstances change
 - Consider CNC

Offers in Compromise

- On request, IRS will hold (and not close) pending offers to July 15th to allow updated financial information to be provided or offers amended
- Taxpay
- Taxpayers may suspend payment under July 15th
- No offers will be defaulted for failing to file 2018 or 2019 tax documents or make payments
 - However all delinquent documents and payment must be made by July 15, 2020
- IRS will continue to process new offers

Collections

Until July 15th....

- Generally, lien and levy activity suspended until July 15th
 - No automated liens or levies
 - However, ROs have discretion, subject to manager approval, to pursue liens and levies
- Passport suspension placed on hold
- No referrals to private debt collectors
- IRS reserves the right to use jeopardy levies or refer cases to DOJ Tax to preserve statutes of limitations

Compliance

- No new audits, except under special circumstances
- In person audits suspended, except under very unique circumstances
- Audits may proceed by correspondence and phone

Appeals

- Will continue by conference call and videoconference only