



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance*

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**Online Guide Transmittal 2021-89
November 12, 2021**

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From: Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management
Re: Cross Program: Extending Certification Periods

Overview

The Department has received authorization to extend certification periods for certain households with a certification end date from November 30 through December 2021. These certification periods have been extended to June 2022. With this change, the Department aims to facilitate the timely issuance of benefits, increase efficiency, and continue assisting staff whose workloads have increased due to the pandemic.

A new Online Guide page has been added to the COVID-19 book: Extending Certification Periods.

Due to timing with BEACON automation, December SNAP recertification forms were sent to grantees with an SSN ending in "0" through "3" prior to this extension taking effect. The Extending Certification Periods Online Guide page includes procedures for handling a recertification that is submitted by a client whose certification period was extended.

Purpose

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff of the extension of certification end dates for certain households and the corresponding updates to the Online Guide.

**New Online
Guide Page**

Topic: COVID-19
Page: Extending Certification Periods

Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email them to DTA.Procedural Issues.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
