

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

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Online Guide Transmittal 2023-29 April 7, 2023

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

From: (X\$arah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management

Re: Cross Programs: Resuming the Ability to Schedule In-Office

Appointments

Overview

In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 health emergency the
Department closed local offices and temporarily suspended the mailing of all in-person appointment notices.

Effective April 7, 2023, the ability to schedule and generate in-office appointment letters has now resumed to ensure that clients who cannot be serviced through the phone, or prefer to conduct business in-person, have access to Department services at their local office.

Purpose

This Online Guide Transmittal advises staff that the ability to schedule and generate in-office appointments for certain case activities has been reenabled.

Key Updates

In-office appointments are only be used when a client does not have an active contact number, has an ADA accommodation approved for in-person services, has HLS and it was determined it is not safe to call, or if they request to conduct their appointment at a local office.

The functionality for the following appointment types will be enabled in BEACON:

• Application In-Office: FS

Reevaluation In-Office: EAEDC and SNAP

• Reevaluation In-Office: EAEDC only

• Reevaluation In-Office: SNAP only

Reevaluation In-Office: TAFDC and SNAP

• Reevaluation In-Office: TAFDC only

• EBT Photo Card

Note: The following in-person appointment types were never suppressed, so functionality remains the same:

• Case Maint In-Office: Any Program

• Client Assistance Coordinator - In-Office

• Ext. Appt. In-Office

Economic Assistance staff must continue to use the Case Maint. In-Office: Any Program type workaround if required to schedule an in-person appointment for a TAFDC or EAEDC application interview. This includes TAFDC or EAEDC and SNAP combo application interviews.

Revised Online Guide Page

Topic: COVID-19

Page: Temporary COVID-19 Verification Procedures

Topic: Harper – ADA – Disability Access

Page: ADA Accommodations During Temporary COVID

Operations

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.