



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-8000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOUSING –  
FEDERAL HOUSING COMMISSIONER

**Date: March 18, 2020**

**Mortgagee Letter 2020-04**

**To:** All FHA Approved Mortgagees  
All Direct Endorsement Underwriters  
All FHA Roster Appraisers  
All FHA Roster Inspectors  
All FHA Approved 203(k) Consultants  
All HUD Approved Housing Counselors  
All HUD Approved Nonprofit Organizations  
All Governmental Entity Participants  
All Real Estate Brokers  
All Closing Agents

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<b>Subject</b>	Foreclosure and Eviction Moratorium in connection with the Presidentially-Declared COVID-19 National Emergency
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this Mortgagee Letter (ML) is to inform mortgagees of a foreclosure and eviction moratorium for all FHA-insured Single Family mortgages for a period of 60 days.
<b>Effective Date</b>	This Mortgagee Letter is effective immediately upon issuance.
<b>Public Feedback</b>	HUD welcomes feedback from interested parties for a period of 30 calendar days from the date of issuance. To provide feedback on this policy document, please send feedback to the FHA Resource Center at <a href="mailto:answers@hud.gov">answers@hud.gov</a> . HUD will consider the feedback in determining the need for future updates.
<b>Affected Programs</b>	This guidance applies to all FHA Title II Single Family forward and Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (reverse) mortgage programs.
<b>Background</b>	The President of the United States proclaimed that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency as of March 1, 2020. As a result of this unprecedented global pandemic, many jurisdictions have reduced services, businesses have closed, and other activities have been

## **Mortgagee Letter 2020-04, Continued**

curtailed. In addition, this pandemic impedes the ability of Americans to work and provide for their families. This directly impacts the financial well-being of individuals, families, and businesses. Therefore, as part of a broader federal government effort, the Secretary of HUD is authorizing a moratorium on foreclosures. Furthermore, Americans have been asked to remain in their homes to stem the tide of COVID-19. To ensure families are not displaced during this critical period, the Secretary of HUD is also authorizing a moratorium on evictions for FHA-insured properties.

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### **Moratorium on Foreclosures and Evictions and Extension of Deadlines**

Properties secured by FHA-insured Single Family mortgages are subject to a moratorium on foreclosure for a period of 60 days. The moratorium applies to the initiation of foreclosures and to the completion of foreclosures in process.

Similarly, evictions of persons from properties secured by FHA-insured Single Family mortgages are also suspended for a period of 60 days.

In addition, deadlines of the first legal action and reasonable diligence timelines are extended by 60 days.

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### **Paperwork Reduction Act**

The information collection requirements contained in this document have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520) and assigned OMB Control Numbers 2502-0429, 2502-0583 and 2502-0584. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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### **Questions**

Any questions regarding this Mortgagee Letter may be directed to the FHA Resource Center at 1-800-Call-FHA. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may reach this number by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. For additional information on this Mortgagee Letter, please visit [www.hud.gov/answers](http://www.hud.gov/answers).

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### **Signature**

Brian D. Montgomery  
Assistant Secretary for Housing –  
Federal Housing Commissioner