

## Stewart – Massachusetts Mid-Week Update – March 3, 2021

Dear Stewart Partners,

Happy March! We hope that you are all safe after yesterday's high winds and cold temperatures. Even with the arctic chill of yesterday, there has been lots of positive news in the past few days, including the announcement that another COVID vaccine received approval, promises to have all adults vaccinated by the end of May, and the Red Sox announcing Fenway will open, although with reduced capacity, when the season starts in April. All of this good news, with an expected strong Spring real estate market, gives us lots of things to look forward to!

In this update we wanted to remind you of another extension in the federal foreclosure moratorium. Stewart issued an updated bulletin regarding the extension, and in case you've missed it, we've linked it below. We are also sharing an article about accessing the federal Paycheck Protection Program funds. Lastly, Massachusetts Courts have begun Phase 2 of the resumption of jury trials on March 1, which was outlined in the Supreme Judicial Court recent order.

- *Federal Foreclosure & Eviction Moratoriums Extended*

HUD, FHFA, USDA, and the VA have all issued statements extending their existing foreclosure and eviction moratoria to June 30, 2021. Some of the moratoriums have exceptions, but we remind agents that prior to insuring title to any property in Massachusetts that was subject to a foreclosure action which occurred on or after 3/18/2020, you should seek approval from a Massachusetts underwriter.

Stewart issued bulletin SLS20211004 on March 1, 2021 advising all our agents of the extension of the moratoriums. The bulletin contains links to agency specific extensions. To view the bulletin follow this link: <https://www.virtualunderwriter.com/en/bulletins/2021-1/sls2021004.html>

- *Paycheck Protection Program – Help for Small Businesses*

One of the often-repeated complaints about the PPP is that small businesses have had a difficult time accessing the forgivable loan programs. This complaint is now being addressed, and the Biden administration has announced changes to the program to help small businesses.

To read the full story, follow this link: <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/22/the-smallest-businesses-are-getting-extra-ppp-attention-what-to-know.html>

- *Jury Trials – resumed on March 1*

The second phase of the plan for the resumption of jury trials began on March 1, 2021, pursuant to the most recent order issued by the Supreme Judicial Court. The SJC's March 1 order replaces the existing order issued on September 17, 2020. The resumption will be gradual, and priority will be given to criminal cases. To read the full order, follow this link: <https://www.mass.gov/supreme-judicial-court-rules/supreme-judicial-court-fifth-updated-order-regarding-court-operations>

- [Stewart's Massachusetts COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

Please view our resource page which contains all the local information relative to underwriting guidance, affidavits, registry closures and frequently asked questions. This site will be updated regularly. To access click [HERE](#) and make it a favorite on your web-browser. You can also copy the following URL and paste it into your web browser:

<https://www.stewart.com/content/stewart/stewartcom/en/stg/massachusetts/underwriting-resources/forms-policy-information/covid-19-info-resources.html>



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