

Stewart – Massachusetts Mid-Week Update – August 12, 2020

Dear Stewart Partners,

It's hard to believe we're already halfway through August! As many of us anxiously await word on what the coming school year will look like, the hot real estate market has been keeping us busy. According to HousingWire, "[August is the new May.](#)" Even so, August is traditionally the month many of us take a family trip, and we hope you have been able to take some time away from your practice - even if only for a "stay-cation."

Whether schools are fully open in the fall, we still expect many employees to continue working from home for some (or all) of the work week. In this week's update we are providing you with some articles on how to maintain a successful "work from home force." We also wanted to let you know about a security issue with certain internet routers. Finally, we are providing an update on Governor Charlie Baker's recent actions to halt the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts.

- *Keeping your employees together even when they're working remotely*

Many employers have successfully cultivated a strong workforce in the office. How can you do that when you don't see your employees in person as much - or at all? Here are some articles and a webinar with suggestions on how to have the same success with your remote workers:

ALTA: *Tips to cultivate a successful remote*

team. Article: <https://www.alta.org/news/news.cfm?20200730-Tips-to-Cultivate-a-Successful-Remote-Team>

Webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=uQHMHhFVzwy&feature=emb_logo

The Press-Enterprise: *How do you strengthen workplace culture when everyone works from home?* <https://www.pe.com/2020/08/02/how-do-you-strengthen-workplace-culture-when-everyones-wfh/>

- *It may be time to replace your router if it's on this list*

We often hear about software or hardware bugs that could be exploited by a hacker to gain access to your computers. Typically, the companies who make those products swiftly issue a "patch" in the form of a software update. NETGEAR, one of the largest manufacturers of internet routers, has announced it will no longer provide updates on certain devices. The full article can be viewed here: <https://kb.netgear.com/000061982/Security-Advisory-for-Multiple-Vulnerabilities-on-Some-Routers-Mobile-Routers-Modems-Gateways-and-Extenders>

A list of the model numbers affected is below. The model number can be found on the sticker affixed to the back or bottom of your router.

AC1450

R6200v2

WNCE3001

D6300

R6300v1

WNCE3001v2

DGN2200v1

R7300DST

WNDR3300v1

DGN2200M	WGR614v10	WNDR3300v2
DGND3700v1	WGR614v8	WNDR3400v1
LG2200D	WGR614v9	WNDR3400v2
MBM621	WGT624v4	WNDR3400v3
MBR1200	WN2500RP	WNDR3700v3
MBR1515	WN2500RPv2	WNDR4000
MBR1516	WN3000RP	WNDR4500
MBR624GU	WN3000RPv2	WNDR4500v2
MBRN3000	WN3000RPv3	WNR3500v1
MVBR1210C	WN3100RP	WNR3500Lv1
R4500	WN3100RPv2	WNR3500v2
R6200	WN3500RP	WNR834Bv2

If you see your router's model number on this list, it may be time for an upgrade.

- *Massachusetts Governor imposes limitation on outdoor gatherings, identifies communities with highest increase in COVID-19 cases*

In early July, Governor Charlie Baker lifted the restriction on the number of people who could attend an outdoor gathering in an unenclosed space. What had previously been a limitation of 10 people was increased to no more than 100 people. As a result, reports of several large parties surfaced, along with an increase in positive COVID-19 test results in the Bay State. Effective August 11, 2020, the Governor has ordered that no more than 50 people can be in an unenclosed outdoor space at any time. Masks must be worn if more than 10 people from different households are at a gathering. The 25-person limit on indoor gatherings remains unchanged. The Governor also authorized local police and other public safety officials to enforce the bans, with the ability to issue cease and desist orders and fines to any person who hosts a gathering without following the rules.

The Baker Administration also provided information as to which municipalities had seen an increase in COVID-19 cases. A map showing which communities have been designated as a higher risk community based upon the rise in cases can be viewed here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-average-daily-incidence-rate-august-11-2020/download>

The map will be updated every Wednesday and published on the Department of Public Health website.

- *Stewart Underwriting - Upcoming Webinar*

Our next webinar will be on September 16, 2020 at 10 AM. The topic is “**Probate Perils and Perfecting Title**.” To register, follow this

link: <https://www.stewart.com/content/dam/stewart/Microsites/massachusetts/pdfs/Webinar-Invitation-Form-updated-August.pdf>

If there are any topics you’d like to suggest for an upcoming webinar, please send them to us at massuwing@stewart.com

- *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, probate file access 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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