

## **Massachusetts to Temporarily Suspend Bottle Redemption Requirements Enforcement**

Effective immediately, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, out of an abundance of caution, are suspending enforcement of the requirements for retailers to accept beverage containers that have a deposit until further notice or until the current state of emergency is terminated. This action is being taken because:

- Many grocers, supermarkets, and other retail operations have indicated that they are overwhelmed with an unprecedented volume of customers purchasing provisions so they can spend time at home to help in the effort to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus.
- Temporarily suspending enforcement of these requirements will allow individual retailers to assess their operations and, if necessary and appropriate, shift staffing to enable smoother operations and limit any contamination that potentially could occur from staff handling used beverage containers.

Consumers are encouraged to hold on to their deposit containers for redemption at a later date or to recycle those containers with existing household recycling.

MassDEP and the Attorney's General Office will assess the situation on an ongoing basis and notify grocers, supermarkets, and other retailers when redemption services must resume and the temporary enforcement suspension ends.

MassDEP's Bottle Bill Hotline is available at 617-556-1054 for questions and information requests.

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/resources-during-covid-19#-advocacy-&-other-actions->