Starting October 17, 2020, landlords can file eviction cases in Massachusetts courts again. But a federal rule may protect you from eviction until the end of the year even if you cannot pay rent. This is called the CDC eviction ban.

**Does the CDC eviction ban apply to me?**

The CDC eviction ban applies if you:

- Are low-income (earn less than $99,000 in 2020);
- Cannot pay rent because you or family members lost a lot of income or had to pay for a lot of medical expenses because of COVID;
- Are trying to get government help for housing or rent;
- Are likely to become homeless or move to an already crowded place if evicted; and
- Are trying to pay some rent if you can.

**How do I protect myself under the CDC eviction ban?**

**Step 1: Send your landlord a letter**

- Each adult in your family should sign, date, and send a special letter called a declaration to the landlord by mail or email. This online tool helps you create the letter: [https://massaccess.suffolklitlab.org/housing/#CDC](https://massaccess.suffolklitlab.org/housing/#CDC).
- Keep a copy of the letter for yourself.

**Step 2: Apply for state rent assistance**

- Massachusetts households may be able to get up to $4,000 to $10,000 in rent assistance. You must apply for rent assistance to protect yourself under the CDC eviction ban.
- Agencies can help you apply for rent assistance. Call for help in:
  - Cantonese (Asian Community Development Corporation): 857-449-7131
  - Mandarin (Asian Community Development Corporation): 857-449-7132
  - Vietnamese (VietAID): 617-804-2456
  - English: 211 or Metro Housing Boston

**If the CDC eviction ban applies to me, can my landlord still try to evict me?**

- Your landlord may still try to evict you. If that happens, you should contact us right away to discuss next steps. In Massachusetts, you cannot be evicted unless your landlord follows the right steps through the court process to evict you.

**If you are facing eviction, call (617) 603-1807. For Chinese and Vietnamese, call 617-603-1809.**