

DIVISION 1181 A.T.U. – NEW YORK EMPLOYEES PENSION FUND
20 North Central Avenue, 3rd Floor, Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580
(718) 845-5800

Re: Temporary Extension of Deadlines Related to Benefit Claims and Appeals
Due to COVID-19 Health Crisis

Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis, federal guidance has temporarily extended the deadline for participants and beneficiaries to file benefit claims and appeals with the Division 1181 A.T.U. – New York Employees Pension Fund. Therefore, the deadlines referenced in the document being provided to you in this mailing are temporarily extended by this guidance.

This deadline extension is applicable beginning March 1, 2020 and at the latest will end 60 days after the end of the federally declared COVID-19 National Emergency (the “Outbreak Period”). Currently, we do not know when the extension will end. (Please note that the federal government’s determination of when the National Emergency ends will control, even if the date on which the state government declares the end of the emergency in the state of New York or your home state is a different date.) As a result, the Fund will “toll” or disregard the Outbreak Period when calculating the due date for you to submit benefit claims and file appeals. For example, if you received a benefit claim denial on February 14, 2020, the deadline for you to file an appeal under the Fund’s Plan document is generally 60 days from the date you received notification of the denial. However, under the temporary deadline extension, the 60-day appeal period is tolled as of March 1, 2020. This means that the deadline for you to file an appeal will be 45 days after the end of the Outbreak Period (15 days passed between February 14, 2020 and March 1, 2020 and 45 days remained to file an appeal as of March 1, 2020).

Please note that the federal guidance has also extended the Fund’s deadline to respond to such claims and appeals. Therefore, the Fund may be delayed in its response on a particular claim or appeal due to the COVID-19 health crisis, but the Fund will endeavor to respond as timely as possible given the circumstances. Also, please note that deadlines related to spousal consent contained in documents provided to you have not been extended and continue to apply.

If you have any questions about these issues, please do not hesitate to contact the Fund Office to discuss.