

MEDIA RELEASE



**Trinidad and Tobago
Securities and Exchange Commission
Levels 22-23, Tower D
International Waterfront Centre
1 Wrightson Road, Port of Spain**

Issued Monday, March 23, 2020

TTSEC: Interim Operational Changes in Response to COVID-19

The Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission (“the Commission”) remains committed to protecting the health and safety of Staff, Registrants and the wider national community in light of the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.

In this regard, effective today - Monday 23rd March, 2020; and until further notice, most of our Staff will either be working remotely or on rotation; and our business hours will be adjusted, as we actively respond to the national effort to slow the progress of this deadly virus by mitigating against potential exposure to risk.

In the interim our Office Hours will be from 8am to 2pm, Monday to Friday; and there will be limited external access to the Commission’s offices. Visitors to the Commission’s offices will be required to complete a mandatory questionnaire that addresses issues of public health and safety, before access is granted to the premises.

We are aware that many market participants have also started to work remotely and understand that this may make business more challenging. However, we acknowledge and support your efforts during these challenging times and therefore will shortly be announcing appropriate interim adjustments to reporting and disclosure requirements for registrants and reporting issuers.

On-site compliance reviews have also been postponed until further notice. Our Compliance and Inspection team will engage in off-site/desk-based reviews wherever feasible. Registration applications will be processed as per normal, however, to minimise delays, we strongly suggest that registrants take advantage of electronic channels in submitting applications.

We have also taken the decision to postpone the conduct of Hearings until circumstances allow for their safe conduct. All public investor and market outreach and information sessions have also been postponed.

The Commission has suspended Staff overseas travel, training programmes and commitments at this time. Meetings are only being scheduled if absolutely necessary and, to the extent possible, are being held virtually or via teleconferencing.

The Commission continues to collaborate with the other regulatory bodies and Associations, as we monitor market operations and address any forthcoming challenges. We will adapt our approaches and activities accordingly, and may publish further updates as the situation develops. We look forward to the Market's continued support during this phase of temporary transitioning.

The Commission is mandated to protect investors from unfair, improper or fraudulent practices; develop the market and foster confidence in the capital markets. As such, investors are encouraged to continue to be vigilant during these uncertain financial times, and access the Commission's Registration Database via our corporate website, www.ttsec.org.tt, to make sure that any person or company offering an investment opportunity, has been registered by the Commission. You may also visit our investor education website (www.investucatett.com) for further information regarding fraudulent investments and scams.

The COVID-19 situation is quickly evolving. As we aim to introduce measures to **#flattenthecurve** and eventually stop the spread of this virus, further updates will be provided as and when required. Please be assured that the Commission remains fully committed to ensuring the health and safety of our Staff, their families, stakeholders, and by extension, the public, as we navigate these challenging times together.

The Commission's primary contact centre remains operational. At this time, we encourage you to contact us via e-mail (ttsec@ttsec.org.tt) or by phone only at 624-2991.

For matters related to Anti-Money Laundering (AML) in respect of Compliance Officer (CO) approval, firms can either electronically sign, print/scan/sign or submit as is, as an interim measure.

For matters related to Inspections you may contact: inspections@ttsec.org.tt

For complaints you may submit via our online complaint process: <https://www.ttsec.org.tt/about-us/investor-complaints/>

You may also visit our website www.ttsec.org.tt for additional email addresses and contact numbers.

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Contact:

Corporate Communication and Education Department
868 624-2991 / Email: ccei@ttsec.org.tt