



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister Hosein calls on Corporations to take measures against the spread of COVID-19

March 17th 2020, Kent House, Maraval – The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government recognises that meticulous personal hygiene and responsible social behaviour have become increasingly important as we all work together to stem the spread of COVID-19 (*Novel Coronavirus*).

Consequently, the Ministry commends Municipal Corporations on the many proactive and progressive measures implemented thus far. We acknowledge that these efforts must be sustained to ensure best practices, as it relates to personal hygiene, are maintained.

In this regard, we reiterate the important role that the fourteen (14) Municipal Corporations play in providing essential services to citizens such as timely garbage collection and the execution of public sanitation services, particularly during this time.

The Ministry has also engaged in sensitising employees of Municipalities and has reinforced the responsibility of Corporation to genuinely execute their duty of care to employees as well as members of the public by providing a safe working environment and place of business operations.

It is imperative that, as we continue to serve the burgesses of our respective City, Borough or Region, we also properly equip our staff with the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and required resources.

The Ministry is therefore advising all Municipal Corporations to carry out the following:

- 1) Disseminate all notices regarding COVID-19 from official government channels and health authorities, above all the Ministry of Health, to burgesses, using appropriate communication channels such as mobile public address systems, social media and flyers.

Communications Unit

Kent House, Long Circular Road, Maraval, Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: (868) 628 – 5187 ext. 3352; (868) 628 – 4449 Fax: (868) 628 – 0432
Like and Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RDLGTT>



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government

- 2) Public Markets/Abattoirs;
 - a. Conduct information/sensitisation sessions with all vendors, to be delivered by the respective Public Health Departments
 - b. Increase frequency of sanitisation exercises
 - c. Where possible, install hand sanitiser dispensers or install hand washing stations
- 3) Prioritise truck-borne water/water trucking deliveries to vulnerable burgesses, especially in rural communities;
- 4) Engage existing volunteer networks to garner support of all stakeholders, including corporate citizens (Business Associations and Chambers of Commerce) in support of persons in need and those being affected by the economic slow-down.

In addition to the Ministry's efforts, we are also encouraging all Corporations to implore members of the public to work together us in this fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. As expressed by Senator Kazim Hosein, "We urge members of the public to actively work with us at this time, particularly by observing garbage collection schedules and stacking garbage in an orderly fashion. Moreover, please refrain from illegal dumping. These activities place additional and unnecessary strain on Corporations' resources and put fellow citizens at a health risk."

The Minister also noted, "We understand that these essential services are of paramount importance to all burgesses and kindly ask that an "all-of-community" approach is adopted in maintaining cleaner and healthier surroundings. We also encourage burgesses to contact their Public Health Units for information and advice as this situation evolves."

As a member of the recently Cabinet-appointed Standing Committee to deal with public health concerns and emerging infectious diseases, the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government will continue to provide services to the people as best as possible as well as provide timely updates on decisions taken by the Ministry and Corporations during this time.

Communications Unit

Kent House, Long Circular Road, Maraval, Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: (868) 628 – 5187 ext. 3352; (868) 628 – 4449 Fax: (868) 628 – 0432
Like and Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RDLGTT>



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government

PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS CONTACT INFORMATION

Port of Spain City	299 – 0870 ext 2501/2502/2506
San Fernando City	652 - 2543
Arima Borough	612 – 4222 ext 117
Chaguanas Borough	665 – 5320 ext 3057, 3058
Point Fortin Borough	648 - 4570
Diego Martin	632 – 0713/6459
Tunapuna/Piarco	645 – 9077 ext 1203, 1204, 1205, 1208
San Juan/Laventille	675 - 0280 ext 1208
Sangre Grande	668 – 2461 ext 123, 125, 131
Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo	636 – 9054 ext 1239, 1240, 1242
Princes Town	655 – 3494 ext 222, 242, 260
Mayaro/Rio Claro	644 - 2261 ext 5033
Penal/Debe	647 – 8622/ 647 – 0961 ext 119
Siparia	649 – 9894

-END-

Communications Unit

Kent House, Long Circular Road, Maraval, Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: (868) 628 – 5187 ext. 3352; (868) 628 – 4449 Fax: (868) 628 – 0432
Like and Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RDLGTT>