

Dear client,

As a follow up on our previous newsletter, our team has prepared this second edition, to keep you up to date on all new measures implemented by different institutions, in light of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

It is essential to emphasize that we are facing an unprecedented and rapidly evolving legal situation. Therefore, the content of this newsletter may be slightly or significantly altered in the coming days. This newsletter is divided into the following sections.

This Newsletter is divided into the following sections:

[Updated Timeline of Events](#)

[Aviation Measures](#)

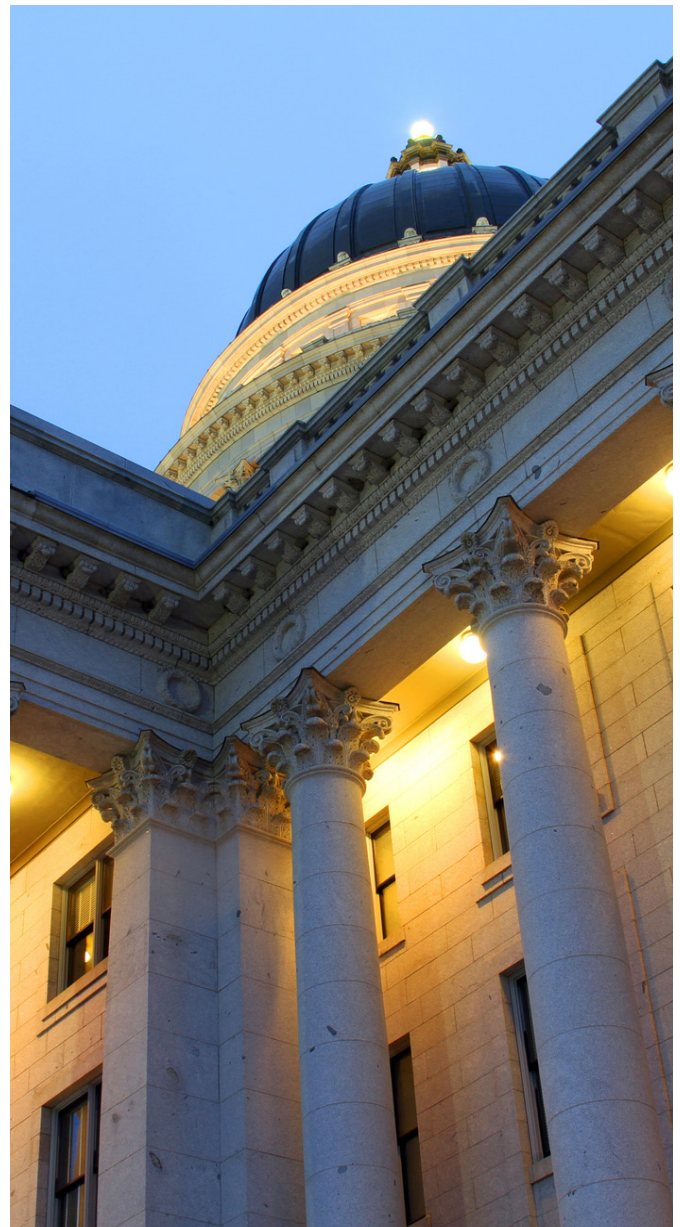
[Labor Measures](#)

[Measures Implemented by the Judiciary](#)

[Tax, Monetary and Financial Measures](#)

[Conclusions](#)

[Annexes](#)



## Updated Timeline of Events

Since our last newsletter, circulated this past Wednesday, March 25, several events of national interest have occurred, including the pronouncement of speeches, as well as the issuing of decrees and resolutions. Please find below an update to the timeline of measures adopted in the past few days.

Date	Measure	Disposition
March 25	<p>President Medina delivers a speech issuing new measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/39rSTrH">https://bit.ly/39rSTrH</a></p>	<p>The President addresses the nation and announces the following measures: <b>“To the economic sectors where we have ordered a temporary cease of operations, I now announce that the Government commits to pay up to RD\$8,500 pesos of the salaries of employees whose contracts have been suspended.</b></p> <p>However, I also know there are several companies that, although we have not ordered they cease their operations, <b>are having difficulties and reductions in their economic activity</b>, which can affect their employees.</p> <p>Because of this, I have ordered that the Economic Commission work directly with these companies, in order to <b>cover a percentage of these salaries, up to RD\$8,500 pesos monthly, so that they may keep their workers on payroll</b>, thus facilitating labor stability and the income of hundreds of thousands of families.</p> <p>In this way, the <b>Government will contribute a percentage of the salary, and companies will only need to cover the difference to complete at least 70%</b> of each worker’s salary, in exchange for the preservation of their jobs.</p> <p>These measures, as well as those in the “Stay at Home” program, will remain in effect, as of now, <b>from April 1st, to May 31st [...].”</b></p>
March 26	<p>Presidential Decree No. 138-20</p> <p>Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/3bumsud">https://bit.ly/3bumsud</a></p>	<p>This decree modifies the application of a nationwide curfew, so that the new schedule is from 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. All transit and free movement of people is forbidden during these hours, except for those cases mentioned in Presidential Decrees No. 135-20 and 136-20.</p>
March 26	<p>Address by the High Level Presidential Commission on COVID-19 (the Commission).</p> <p>Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/3bwkucV">https://bit.ly/3bwkucV</a></p>	<p>The Minister of the Presidency, speaking as president of the High Level Presidential Commission on COVID-19, referred to new measures to provide free access to COVID-19 tests and called repeatedly on the Dominican people to stay at home.</p>
March 26	<p>Address by the High Level Presidential Commission on COVID-19 (the Commission).</p> <p>Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2Uohzx8">https://bit.ly/2Uohzx8</a></p>	<p>The Minister of the Treasury, speaking as coordinator of the High Level Presidential Commission on COVID-19, referred to the #StayAtHome and FASE programs: FASE is a program aimed at helping workers, transitionally, with an unconditional monetary transfer. Workers whose employers are contributing to the Social Security Treasury (TSS), and <b>who have closed their operations due to the social distancing measures ordered in this period</b>, may receive support from FASE.</p> <p>[...]The minimum that the Government will be contributing for each worker that is registered in FASE is RD\$5,000 per month. Those workers with wages below RD\$5,000 per month will receive a minimum transfer of RD\$5,000 per month, which will be assumed 100% by the Government.</p> <p>On their part, <b>those workers that have salaries above RD\$5,000 pesos monthly, will receive a monthly contribution covered 70% by the Government, and 30% by the employer.</b> In this case, the State will contribute up to a <b>maximum amount of RD\$8,500 pesos monthly</b> per worker.</p> <p>It is established <b>that FASE will not make contributions to the Christmas Bonus Salary or contributions to the TSS and will not exceed 60 days.</b> For companies interested in joining the program, from April 2 they can fill in the registration information that will be published on the website of the Ministry of the Treasury.</p>
March 27	<p>Press conference with the Central Bank and the Monetary Board on COVID-19 measures.</p> <p>Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2QMT0Yn">https://bit.ly/2QMT0Yn</a></p>	<p>The Central Bank and the Monetary Board laid out new measures aimed at increasing the flow of resources to homes.</p>

## Civil Aviation Measures

On March 14, 2020, the Minister of the Presidency reported that flights to and from Europe, China, Korea and Iran were suspended for 30 days. At the time, these were the regions most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of this announcement, the Civil Aviation Board (JAC) and the Dominican Institute of Civil Aviation (IDAC) issued a statement on March 15, 2020, indicating the corresponding procedures for the request and approval of ferry flights, aimed at repatriating foreigners and residents in the countries affected by the suspension.

Subsequently, on March 17, the President of the Republic ordered the closure for 15 days of all the country's borders: by air, sea and/or land. As a result of this, all civil aviation operations in the country were suspended, allowing only the entry and exit of ferry flights for the repatriation of foreign citizens who wanted to return to their countries, as well as the arrival of cargo and fuel planes and ships, to guarantee supplies to the Dominican population.

Currently, the entry and exit of ferry flights to repatriate foreigners and residents abroad is allowed, as long as said flights meet the following requirements:

- They must have twice the usual crew, as the crew may not disembark on Dominican territory
- They must board people in the Dominican Republic exclusively, as they must arrive empty to Dominican territory
- They must obtain the corresponding authorization from the JAC and the IDAC, which can be obtained by filing the corresponding application, electronically

In accordance with Resolution 058-20 issued by the Ministry of Public Administration, the IDAC continues to provide services to users only electronically. In-person services and visits are suspended until further notice.

## Labor Measures

In the last few days, there have been certain new developments that affect the Labor Measures section in our previous newsletter, regarding the options available to employers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, namely:

### a. Statements Made by the Minister of Labor to the Press

In statements made to members of the press, the Labor Minister – Mr. Winston Santos – indicated that the Labor Ministry “**cannot take action against employers which apply suspensions without pay to their employees,**” given that this is an option granted to employers by the Dominican Labor Code (the Code).

This means that the minister has acknowledged that notwithstanding the terms of Resolution 007/2020, issued by the Labor Ministry on March 18, 2020 (the Resolution), employers operating in the Dominican Republic **can suspend the employment agreements of their employees,** as set forth by articles 48 and following the Labor Code.

In this sense, the Labor Minister informed the press that the terms of the Resolution – regarding the obligatory vacation time to be granted to employees during the two weeks following the date on which the Resolution was issued – **should be considered a recommendation.**

With these declarations, the minister has clarified the initial confusion caused by the Resolution, **confirming that an employer's legal ability to suspend employees has not been eliminated or limited.**

Additionally, the Labor Minister clarified that employee suspension notifications may be carried out digitally, through the Labor Ministry's website ([www.mt.gov.do](http://www.mt.gov.do)), via the SIRLA option and using form DGT-9. It seems the written notifications can also be filed with the ministry; however, the authorities are trying to avoid large crowds at their offices (access: <https://bit.ly/33Oxxne>).

Regarding the suspension of employment agreements, please note the following:

- i. The suspension of the terms of an employment agreement, in principle, begins on the day that the cause which motivates the suspension has occurred.
- ii. The suspension of an employment agreement as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic would be legally justified based on item 4 of article 51 of the Labor Code, which allows employment agreements to be suspended as a result of “a fortuitous event or *force majeure* event.” In these cases, the Labor Department of the Labor Ministry must evaluate whether the cause of suspension effectively exists and, in principle, must issue a resolution approving or denying the suspension in a term no greater than 15 days.
- iii. The suspensions of employees that show COVID-19 symptoms are legally based on item 6 of article 51 of the Labor Code, which allows employment agreements to be suspended when an employee has contracted “a contagious illness.” In these cases, in principle, the suspension is not directly subject to approval by the ministry and the employee should be able to enjoy the subsidy benefits provided for by the Dominican Social Security System.

### b. Address by President Medina Regarding the Creation of the Solidary Assistance to Employees Fund (FASE)

In his March 25 speech, President Medina announced the creation of a special fund aimed at assisting salaried employees, denominated the Solidary Assistance to Employees Fund (FASE).

According to President Medina's speech, through the aforementioned fund, the Dominican government will commit to implementing the following relief measures:

- i. For companies that operate in the market sectors/ industries that have been ordered to shut down, the government has committed to pay up to RD\$8,500 a month to each employee that has been suspended, as a partial subsidy of their salary.
- ii. Assistance will also be provided to employees of companies that operate in the market sectors/industries that have been authorized to remain open, but which are experiencing difficulty or reductions in their income because of the current situation. The government will work hand in hand with these companies in order to **cover a percentage of the employees' salaries, that can go up to RD\$8,500 a month.** Employers must then pay the rest of the employees' salaries, **and ensure that the latter are paid at least 70% of his/her original salary.** This benefit will apply as long as the employee is not terminated.

Notwithstanding the above, in subsequent clarifications on the FASE, issued by the Treasury Ministry (see point (iii) below), reference has only been made to the possibility of employers who have been ordered to shut down applying to the fund. At the moment, it is unclear whether the provisions of the President's speech on assistance to employers who continue to operate will be maintained, whether additional clarifications will be offered or whether another fund will be created for these purposes.

iii. For the moment, it is foreseen **that these measures will be in place from April 1, 2020, to May 31, 2020.**

**c. Address by the Minister of the Treasury, Coordinator of the High Level Commission for the Control and Prevention of COVID-19**

The Minister of the Treasury elaborated on the two programs mentioned in the March 25 Presidential Address, referring to the Stay at Home program and FASE, at a press conference held on March 26 of this year, highlighting the following:

Stay at Home Program	FASE
<p>The Stay At Home program was specially designed for the homes of informal workers. With this program, until May 31, these families will receive additional assistance through the Solidarity Card to cover basic services and needs, such as food, gas, electricity and water.</p> <p>For the purposes of implementing this plan, the number of families that can benefit from the Solidarity Card was increased and accounts will be enabled through a coordinated effort between the Social Services Administrator and the Reserve Bank to be able to send these payments to approximately 200,000 families.</p>	<p>FASE is a program to help workers, temporarily, with an unconditional cash transfer.</p> <p>For an employee to receive assistance from FASE, they must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work for a company that is registered with the Social Security Treasury (TSS)</li> <li>• Said company must have ceased operations due to social distancing</li> </ul> <p>The purpose of this program is to preserve jobs. Government support will be granted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workers with salaries below RD\$5,000 a month will receive a cash transfer of at least RD\$5,000 a month, which will be 100% borne by the government.</li> <li>• Workers with salaries above RD\$5,000 a month will receive a monthly contribution that will be covered 70% by the government, and 30% by their employer. In this case, the state will contribute a maximum amount of RD\$8,500 a month per worker.</li> </ul> <p>FASE will not contribute to Christmas Bonus salaries, nor to the TSS, and these contributions will be in place for 60 days.</p> <p>If any company is interested in registering its employees under this program, <b>they can do so as of April 2 through the website of the Ministry of Finance.</b></p> <p>Once the employee is registered, payments will be made directly to the employee's payroll account on April 7 and 21, and May, respectively.</p>

As we indicated above, there seem to be certain contradictions between the President's speech on March 25 and the statements of the Treasury Minister on March 26, so it is currently not completely clear whether salary assistance will be provided for employees who work in companies that continue to operate.

We understand that in the coming days, the authorities will issue additional parameters to clarify doubts. Because registration will be available April 2, we understand that before that date – that is, by the beginning of next week – we will get answers about the aforementioned contradictions.

**Measures Implemented by the Judiciary**

The Council of the Judiciary, through Resolution No. 001-2020 issued on March 18, 2020, and Resolution No. 02-2020 issued on March 19, 2020 (access: <https://bit.ly/2vOCAaY> and <https://bit.ly/2UeuUs0>, respectively), adopted the following measures:

Provision	Execution
<p>Ordered judges to suspend all hearings as of <b>Thursday, March 19, 2020</b>. Hearings will resume on <b>April 13, 2020</b>.</p>	<p>The courts have administratively suspended the indicated hearings, and set new dates.</p>

<p>It ruled that the Judicial Offices of Permanent Attention Services of the Criminal Jurisdiction (Permanent Attention Offices) (i) will continue to function with the minimum required personnel and with the greatest preventive measures; and (ii) in addition to their ordinary powers, they will attend to urgent cases aimed at the protection of fundamental rights that may be claimed through habeas corpus and protective actions (amparo).</p>	<p>Permanent Attention Offices are holding hearings through videoconferences, using the Microsoft Teams platform. To access, users must download the indicated application and subscribe using an Outlook email. Once they have access to this platform, users are provided with the email of the Permanent Attention Office, which, in turn, sends them another email inviting them to join the hearing videoconferences.</p> <p>Until now, the virtual hearing program has been implemented in the following jurisdictions: The National District, Santo Domingo, San Francisco de Macorís, María Trinidad Sánchez, Samaná, La Vega, Monseñor Nouel, San Juan and El Seibo. The corresponding efforts and works are being carried out to integrate the courts located in other points into this modality.</p> <p>Filing of applications, documents, etc., must be done in person. However, works are in process to enable a digital platform to process the referred deposits.</p>
<p>It suspended the procedural, registration and administrative deadlines for all entities dependent on the judiciary, starting <b>March 19, 2020</b>. These deadlines will be resumed three business days after the state of emergency decreed by the President of the Republic has ceased.</p>	<p>Procedural deadlines corresponding to already initiated criminal proceedings (e.g., preliminary hearings and trials) are excluded from this general suspension, both in the ordinary jurisdiction, and in the children and adolescents jurisdiction. In these cases, judges were instructed to act in accordance with the regulations that govern these matters.</p>

## Tax, Monetary and Financial Measures

The General Tax Directorate (DGII), the Monetary Board and the Central Bank have extended their catalog of measures aimed at facing the economic impact of COVID-19 in the Dominican Republic. Along with the measures presented in our first newsletter, please find an updated list of measures below:

### Economic Measures Announced by the President of the Republic

#### March 25

- The Dominican government will finance the cost of PCR tests to confirm COVID-19 infections, from authorized private laboratories. The tests will be covered for all those who have a prescription and are 59 years or older and have any debilitating health condition, considered risky, such as hypertension, diabetes, respiratory diseases, cancer or kidney failure, among others. Similarly, and always with medical prescriptions, the cost of the test will be covered for those who present two or more symptoms.
- At this time, the Social Plan of the Presidency is capable of serving food to 45,000 families each day with three servings each, enough for nine days of food. At that rate, they will cover 315,000 families weekly, throughout the country.
- For students, 1.3 million food rations will be delivered each week, enough for one week of sustenance per child.
- For children from 0 to 5 years old, who received their food from children's homes, more than 22,000 basic food kits are also being distributed.
- At the same time, Economic Dining Rooms are serving more than 100,000 servings of cooked food every day, in the different centers of the country and through mobile kitchens.
- From April 1 to May 31, the 811,000 families that today have the Solidarity Card and receive an average of RD\$1,500 a month will benefit from a two-month increase in the "Eating is First" component, so that they have RD\$5,000 a month for the purchase of food and basic necessities in the Social Supply Network.
- Furthermore, households whose heads are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 will be assigned an additional amount of RD\$2,000 monthly, thus totaling RD\$7,000, for more than 350,000 households.
- The process to adhere an additional 2,000 establishments to the Social Supply Network is now in motion, to prevent any shortage of products and to respond adequately to the increased demand these measures will provoke.
- During the next three months, starting March 25, 2020, the following measures have been taken:
  1. Banks will eliminate the minimum monthly payment on the balance of credit card debt
  2. Likewise, late fees will be eliminated
  3. The Bank of Reserves decided to lower the credit card consumption interest rate to 1% per month

## News and Measures Adopted by the Central Bank

### March 20

The Commission to attend to Economic and Employment Affairs and the National Competitiveness Council referred to the following measures taken due to COVID-19:

- Instructions are being prepared on the distribution of released resources with the authorization of the Monetary Board to face the economic impact of COVID-19.
- Losses in the tourism sector are estimated on a preliminary basis, in net terms, between US\$400 million and US\$500 million, taking into account that the greater flow of remittances, of foreign direct investment and the significant decrease in oil prices, will partially offset the impact in terms of the balance of payments.
- The adequate flow of foreign currency in the exchange market is guaranteed through the provision of foreign currency for more than US\$500 million by the Central Bank.
- A call was made to economic agents and the public to remain calm, as the economic foundations of the country remain strong.

### March 25

The Central Bank guarantees the stability of the exchange market in the face of uncertainty due to COVID-19:

- The Central Bank of the Dominican Republic (BCRD), in the interest of keeping economic agents and public opinion in general duly informed, clarified various aspects of the behavior of the Dominican exchange market, in response to certain press reports that indicate the increase in the devaluation of the Dominican peso, due to the uncertainty in the local economy caused by COVID-19.
- At the end of 2019, it was possible to accumulate international reserves at historical optimum levels, which has allowed the Central Bank to actively participate in the exchange market since the beginning of this year to maintain orderly conditions, injecting currency into the system through financial intermediation entities, exceeding US\$1.058 billion, in gross terms.
- The Central Bank has sold to the Reserve Bank some US\$150 million aimed at supporting the demand for foreign exchange destined to pay the oil bill through the Dominican Petroleum Refinery (REFIDOMSA), for a total of US\$1.208 billion as of March 25, 2020.
- It is noted that financial entities have wide availability of dollars, around US\$1.7 billion.
- It is highlighted that it maintains a strengthened position of international reserves, which are around US\$9.3 billion as of March 24, 2020, which is equivalent to 4.9 months of imports, excluding free zones, and represent 10.1% of gross domestic product, which are considered as optimal levels by the International Monetary Fund.
- In recent months, the level of depreciation has increased in some countries, with the Dominican economy being one of the least affected in the Latin America region and among emerging countries (e.g., 24.9% in Mexico, 15.7% in Uruguay and 5.9% in Peru, while depreciation in the Dominican Republic is only 1.6%, in the same period).
- It is worth noting that even within the prevailing international context, a drop in oil prices and a sustained increase in gold prices as a safe haven asset could favor the terms of exchange of the Dominican economy.



<b>March 26</b>	<p>The Central Bank and the Monetary Board expand measures that increase the flow of resources to households and businesses, and encourage the reduction of interest rates:</p> <p>The Central Bank of the Dominican Republic (BCRD) informed economic agents and the public that additional measures have been taken to combat the negative effects on the economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Dominican Republic.</p> <p>The approved measures are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Increase the amount of liquidity facilities to financial intermediation entities from RD\$30 billion to RD\$50 billion, through repurchase agreements of up to 90 days and an interest rate of up to 5% per year. These facilities may be renewed at maturity.</li> <li>2) Increase up to RD\$30.1334 billion from RD\$22.2310 billion, the resources released from legal reserve to channel new loans to the different productive sectors and households. This loosening is also applicable to the resources released from legal reserve in foreign currency for an amount of US\$222.4 million.</li> <li>3) Increase liquidity facilities in foreign currency to financial intermediation entities from US\$300 million to US\$400 million, through repurchase agreements up to 90 days and interest rates of 1.80% per year, renewable at maturity, in addition to US\$222.4 million freed from legal reserve, in order to channel foreign currency to the productive sectors and contribute to the proper functioning of the exchange market.</li> <li>4) Reduce the legal reserve ratio in national currency by 0.5%, to savings and credit banks and credit corporations, which represents a release of legal reserve resources for these entities for a total amount of up to RD\$136.4 million, making their required legal reserve ratio equal to that of savings and loan associations.</li> <li>5) Regarding the exchange market, the Central Bank was authorized to offer liquidity in dollars for US\$622.4 million, of which US\$400 million will be granted through repurchase agreements for up to 90 days. The remaining US\$222.4 million will be released from legal reserves in foreign currency, to channel new loans to productive sectors, especially tourism and exports.</li> </ol>
-----------------	--

**Measures Adopted by the Internal Taxes General Directorate (DGII)**

<b>March 26</b>	<p>Starting Friday, March 27, 2020, non-contact channels, such as the Contact Center, Telephone Center and Social Networks, will be available from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; the Virtual Office will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The temporary suspension of face-to-face care is maintained in the Local Administrations, Service Centers, Collectives, Payment Offices and Motor Vehicle Offices.</p>
<b>March 26</b>	<p>A grace period is granted for the presentation and payment in the next three fiscal periods (March, April and May) of the following obligations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Gambling casino tax</li> <li>b) Slot machine tax</li> <li>c) Single tax on sports betting centers</li> <li>d) Single tax on lotteries</li> </ol>

**Conclusions**

At present, among the most relevant developments are the implementation of the FASE program and the digital platform for its execution. We understand the new measures adopted by the Dominican government to be generally correct, although they raise some doubts, which we anticipate will be explained in the coming days.

Please note that not all official directives are written, and those that are, are sometimes vague and contradictory. We will do everything possible to keep you informed of any news that may affect the content of this second newsletter. If you require specific guidelines, or need us to discuss any additional work risks, considerations or strategies, we will be happy to assist you.

As always, we are at your service.

Kind regards,

**Squire Patton Boggs,**

**Peña Prieto Gamundi**

## Annexes

### Timeline of Events, From March 14, 2020, to March 23, 2020

The first case of COVID-19 in the Dominican Republic was confirmed on March 1, 2020. Since that date, the competent authorities, especially the Ministry of Public Health (MISPAS or Public Health), have issued a series of statements and resolutions to confront the present pandemic. Please find below the chronological table included in our first newsletter.

Date	Measure	Disposition
March 14	Suspension of certain flights and cruise ships for 30 days. Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/3ag5xLL">https://bit.ly/3ag5xLL</a>	The Ministry of the Presidency reported that commercial flights from Europe, China, Korea and Iran, in addition to all cruises, were suspended for 30 days.
March 17	The President addresses the nation. Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/33HpVmC">https://bit.ly/33HpVmC</a>	<p>The President addresses the nation and announces several measures, including the following: <b>“Commercial activities are suspended for the next 15 days</b>, with the exception of businesses that carry out basic activities for the population: supermarkets, grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies and commercial establishments dedicated to selling raw or cooked food, among others. Public and private medical service centers and medical laboratories are also authorized to operate normally.</p> <p><b>Any other type of company or business whose activity may be considered vital in the current circumstances can contact the Presidential High Level Commission and we will seek the appropriate solution.</b> The Presidential High Level Commission will be announcing in the coming days additional measures to be adopted during this exceptional 15-day period that we have declared. [...]</p> <p><b>We also request that all productive sectors, whenever possible, implement remote work for at least 15 days. In cases where this is not possible, flexible working hours will be implemented and it is recommended that they limit the attendance of their employees to the minimum necessary, considering implementing shifts to avoid the influx of many people [...].</b></p> <p><b>Likewise, we have decided to close the country’s borders by land, sea, and air, for the next 15 days [...].”</b></p> <p>These measures came into effect on Thursday, March 19.</p>
March 18	President of the High Level Commission on COVID-19 (the Commission) addresses the nation. Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2Ueg58M">https://bit.ly/2Ueg58M</a>	<p>The Minister of the Presidency, speaking as president of the High Level Commission on COVID-19, reiterated that <b>the businesses that may operate during the 15-day period of the quarantine are the following:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Businesses that provide basic necessities for the population, grocery stores, supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations and commercial establishments that sell raw or cooked foods.</li><li>2) Industrial sector businesses, free zones and agricultural businesses may continue operations, but must promote teleworking and flexible hours. It is important to avoid large groupings of personnel and apply standards for distancing in production areas [...].</li></ol>





<p><b>March 18</b></p>	<p>Resolution No. 007/2020 issued by the Ministry of Labor.</p> <p>Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2Jb86mo">https://bit.ly/2Jb86mo</a></p>	<p>Ministry of Labor issues Resolution No. 007/2020, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Cites article 7.15 of Regulation 522-06 for Security and Health in the Workplace, which states that <b>the employer has the ethical and moral duty, and the legal obligation, to take control of any measures in response to any health risk that has been identified at the workplace</b>, independently of whether or not said risk is directly referenced in said resolution.</li> <li>ii. Instructs all companies/employers that qualify to remain open <b>to the public</b>, to implement flexible work hours and, where possible, implement telework and avoid congestion at the workplace. <b>This includes supermarkets, gas stations, pharmacies and commercial establishments dedicated to the sale of food, companies in the industrial sector, free zones and agricultural businesses, among others. This measure was subject to later changes, with most free zones being ordered to close (with certain exceptions).</b></li> <li>iii. <b>Directs employers that must remain closed to grant paid vacations to all employees during the 15-day period following the resolution's publication.</b> Those employees that have sufficient vacation days accumulated must be ordered to take them, while those who do not have enough vacation days accumulated will be advanced one week of paid vacations and, for the second week, their salaries will be borne by the employer. <b>This has limited the ability of employers to suspend labor contracts.</b></li> <li>iv. Strongly recommends isolation measures for vulnerable employees.</li> <li>v. Urges employees to assume a collaborative attitude in order to facilitate reasonable understandings with employers regarding the implementation of this resolution.</li> <li>vi. Recommends flexible measures <b>that do not interfere with a businesses' production nor its employees' salaries.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>March 19</b></p>	<p>Congress issues resolution authorizing the President of the Republic to declare a state of emergency throughout the Dominican territory.</p> <p>Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/3bwPERB">https://bit.ly/3bwPERB</a></p>	<p>Congress authorizes the President to declare a state of national emergency for up to 25 days (Resolution No. 62-20). This resolution authorizes the President to (i) restrict freedom of transit and freedom of association and assembly; (ii) adopt measures to guarantee medical services and provisions; and (iii) adopt measures to support the economic sector, as a way to protect employment and the income of workers.</p>
<p><b>March 19</b></p>	<p>Presidential Decree No. 132-20</p> <p>Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/33HwHc2">https://bit.ly/33HwHc2</a></p>	<p>President issues Decree No. 132-20, which confirms the High Level Commission for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19.</p>
<p><b>March 19</b></p>	<p>Presidential Decree No. 134-20</p> <p>Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2xjle58">https://bit.ly/2xjle58</a></p>	<p>President issues Decree No. 134-20, which declares a state of national emergency for 25 days.</p>
<p><b>March 20</b></p>	<p>Presidential Decree No. 135-20</p> <p>Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2WEITKo">https://bit.ly/2WEITKo</a></p>	<p>President issues Decree No. 135-20, which declares the application of a nationwide curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. All transit and free movement of people is forbidden between these hours, except in the following cases: persons dedicated to health services, such as doctors, nurses, bioanalysts and paramedics; persons with medical emergencies that need to get to health centers; persons dedicated to private security, duly identified as such; members of the press and other means of communication, duly accredited as such; and personnel of electrical supply companies, exclusively when attending to emergencies.</p>
<p><b>March 20</b></p>	<p>Resolution No. 058-2020 issued by the Ministry of Public Administration.</p> <p>Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2UusOTv">https://bit.ly/2UusOTv</a></p>	<p>The Ministry of Public Administration issues Resolution No. 058-2020 that indicates which Public Administrative Entities and Organs must close and which may remain open with limited activities to prevent and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>

<b>March 22</b>	Resolution No. 059-2020 núm. 060-2020 issued by the Ministry of Public Administration. Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2UusOTv">https://bit.ly/2UusOTv</a>	The Ministry of Public Administration issues Resolution No. 059-2020 that adds Public Administrative Entities and Organs to the list of institutions that must close and which may remain open with limited activities, to prevent the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
<b>March 23</b>	Presidential Decree No. 136-20 Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2xfxXHb">https://bit.ly/2xfxXHb</a>	Decree No. 136-20 modifies decree No. 135-20, in order to allow circulation of persons and vehicles linked to the food industry, energy companies, water distribution, telecommunication companies, ports, airports and others, during curfew hours.
<b>March 23</b>	Presidential Decree No. 137-20 Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2JbweW8">https://bit.ly/2JbweW8</a>	Decree suspends all deadlines and terms in administrative procedures before the Public Administration, both central and decentralized. This suspension applies retroactively from March 20, 2020, and through the duration of the state of emergency. Terms and deadlines will resume three business days after the state of emergency is lifted.
<b>March 23</b>	Resolution No. 060-2020 issued by the Ministry of Public Administration. Access: <a href="https://bit.ly/2UusOTv">https://bit.ly/2UusOTv</a>	The Ministry of Public Administration forbids the suspension or destitution of public servants and suspends deadlines to begin procedures against public servants.



The contents of this update are not intended to serve as legal advice related to individual situations or as legal opinions concerning such situations, nor should they be considered a substitute for taking legal advice.