

## **Securities Division Update**

A statewide public health emergency has been declared by Governor Edwards' in the State of Louisiana as a result of the imminent threat posed to Louisiana citizens by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The State of Louisiana has reason to believe that COVID-19 may be spread within the population by various means of exposure, therefore posing a high probability of widespread exposure and a significant risk of substantial future harm to a large number of Louisiana citizens. To help minimize this risk, Governor Edwards' continues to issue Proclamations relating to a Public Health Emergency for COVID-19, which are available to the public and can be viewed on the Office of the Governor website at <https://gov.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/category/10>.

The following will remain in effect as long as there is a public health emergency relating to COVID-19, as declared by Governor Edwards of the State of Louisiana, or until any of those which follow are rescinded or replaced:

- The Office of Financial Institutions is closed to the public, but Securities staff are teleworking from home.
- You may reach the Securities staff via their state email or by a voicemail message on the state office line at (225) 925-4660. All staff will be responding to email and voicemail messages throughout the day, every business day, during this telework period. Relevant contact information is available on the agency's website at [www.ofi.la.gov](http://www.ofi.la.gov).
- Submission of paper copies of registration documents and payment of related fees can be mailed to our office. We also accept electronic filings of unit investment trusts and Form D notice filings through the Electronic Filing Depository (EFD) System. If necessary, we can set up a temporary method of submitting other filings electronically with ACH payments.
- Examiners are conducting remote examinations using phone and email correspondence in lieu of traditional on-site examinations during this time.
- Licensing staff are continuing to process licensing/registration applications through the CRD/IARD systems. Requests for supplemental information may be submitted via email at [seceffectivela@ofi.la.gov](mailto:seceffectivela@ofi.la.gov).
- Enforcement staff also are limiting in-person contacts with witnesses and regulatory partners, taking advantage of phone, email, and other forms of telecommunications technology to complete their work in a virtual environment.

We are sensitive to the challenges that the crisis has created for our registered community and our constituents. Please know that our staff will be responsive and receptive to requests for extensions and other appropriate forms of regulatory relief arising from service and staff disruptions occasioned by COVID-19. Please keep yourself informed and stay safe.

If you have any questions please reach out to Deputy Commissioner of Securities Scott Jolly at [pjolly@ofi.la.gov](mailto:pjolly@ofi.la.gov) or (225) 747-0716 (mobile number).

Sincerely,

John Ducrest, Commissioner  
Office of Financial Institutions