

## **COVID-19 Statement**

The Payments Association of South Africa (PASA) and its members stand with all South Africans as we collectively deal with the impacts of COVID-19, and fully support Government's steps to curb the virus.

The National Payments System plays a critical role in the functioning of our economy, and PASA with its members, remain committed to keeping the payment system at its best performance, whilst considering the safety and wellbeing of employees.

Business continuity plans and processes are being updated to incorporate several Covid-19 eventualities. Together with our members and key stakeholders in the payment system, we have defined processes and escalation measures to report and manage critical incidents related to payment systems. PASA has also established a payments industry crisis management committee with key stakeholders, serving as a hub for scenario analysis, information sharing and escalation of incidents, as well as co-ordinated monitoring and response to adverse effects. PASA is constantly interacting with regulators and other industry bodies to ensure alignment of efforts.

## **Electronic and card payments**

PASA encourages members of the public to make use of electronic forms of payment, including contactless payments for instore purchases. Should your card not allow for contactless payments yet, we urge you to insert it into the terminal yourself instead of handing it over to a cashier.

## PASA training programmes and PIPC2020

Although classrooms for all PASA training programmes do not exceed 100 people, we want to be responsible and respectful of individuals' health and safety. As a result, all PASA training has been suspended until further notice. In the meantime, we are finalising an Electronic Payments Programme which we are hoping to launch as soon as it is safe to do so. We are also in the process of reshaping the Foundational Payments Programme, updating content, as well as rethinking the functional design and way in which we require students to engage with the content, facilitators and each other.

In adherence to Government's guidelines of reducing public crowd sizes, PASA has also decided to move the PIPC2020 conference into the next year, 2021. We will communicate new conference dates closer to the time.

PASA and its members support all safety and hygiene measures, while urging all South Africans to be safe, responsible and proactive during this challenging time.

Please direct any queries to pasa@pasa.org.za