

With the spread of Coronavirus continuing across the globe, Antigua and Barbuda has officially been placed on notice to be prepared. What does this mean in terms of finances? Don't panic — prepare. Sometimes just the act of making a plan helps to ease the stress of facing the unknown. Take a proactive approach to financial preparedness, using these strategies:

## 1. USE ONLINE AND MOBILE BANKING SERVICES FOR ALL OF YOUR BANKING NEEDS

Don't wait for an outbreak, begin today. If you don't have access, sign up today! Customers with online and mobile accounts are able to complete a wide variety of transactions from the convenience of their homes, including:

- Pay anyone, within Antigua or Barbuda and the OECS, electronically using our Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) services.
- Pay any ECAB accountholder using our Peer-to-Peer Payment service.
- Use our Bill Payment service to pay participating merchants (APUA, CTV, Karib Cable, ABI Insurance, CDAL, and participating schools).
- Pay your credit card.
- Request international wire transfers.
- Transfer money between accounts to make it easier to pay bills and expenses.
- Check account balances, 24/7.
- Access and download monthly statements.
- Send a secure message to the bank.
- Order checkbooks, drafts or cash.
- Request stop payments.
- Setup alerts.

## 2. MAKE DEPOSITS VIA OUR DESIGNATED ATMS OR NIGHT DEPOSIT FACILITIES

Our conveniently located branches and ATMs allow making deposits to your account fast, ease and secure. Cash deposited at the ATM prior to 1:00pm will be available on customers' accounts before the end of the business day. Deposits completed after 1:00pm will be available next day, before the end of the business day. The customary timeframe for availability of funds for cheque deposits will apply.

### ATM Deposit locations

- Coolidge (Drive Thru)
- Woods
- Redcliffe Street
- Dockyard

### Night Deposit locations

- Coolidge Branch
- Woods Centre Branch
- Redcliffe Street Branch
- Dockyard Branch

## 3. USE YOUR DEBIT CARD TO SWIPE FOR TRANSACTIONS OR TO ACCESS CASH AT ANY ATM THAT ACCEPTS VISA CARDS

Don't wait for an outbreak, begin today. If you don't have a card, apply today! Customers with Debit/ATM cards are able to complete a wide variety of transactions at ECAB ATMs, including:

- Make Deposits or Withdrawals
- Check Balances
- Transfer between accounts

Debit card customers can also make withdrawals at any ATM that accepts Visa cards.

Cash can transmit germs/viruses. Reduce the use of cash and swipe your card at all available merchants.

## 4. ENROLL TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS VIA DIRECT DEPOSIT.

Persons who receive paper cheques from their employers, social security or other sources should consider requesting direct deposit.

## 5. BUILD AN EMERGENCY FUND

An emergency fund will help to cover unexpected medical costs that could arise from being ill (visits to the doctor, medical tests, medications, loss of income from taking time off work, etc.) For those who already have an emergency fund, now is a good time to contribute a bit extra to that account if possible. For those who haven't created an emergency fund, start one now. Even reserving small amounts can make a big difference, and it's never too late to get started.