**COLOMBO TEA TRADERS’ ASSOCIATION**

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**CIRCULAR NO. 07 OF 2020**  March 13, 2020

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CEO**

**THREAT TO AUCTION PARTICIPANTS VIS-À-VIS THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC**

Since there are between 200 to 300 members of the Trade and related staff attending the weekly tea auctions on each day it is conducted, the auction rooms are a potential breeding ground for the transmission of the Coronavirus. Notwithstanding the improbable eventuality of an infected person entering the auction rooms and the low risk of auction participants contracting the virus, it has been considered prudent to take precautionary measures to curtail the possibility, in the interest of all stakeholders.

The CTTA, in collaboration with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Colombo Brokers’ Association, has decided that, with effect from Sale No. 11 of March 17/18, 2020, the following controls will be enforced, compliance with which will be mandatory by all those seeking entry to the Chamber building to gain access to the auction rooms.

It should be noted that temperature scanning will be conducted at the entrance to the Chamber building and anyone recording a body temperature of 99°F and above will not be granted entry to the Chamber premises. In this regard, co-operation with the security personnel, in performing their duty in accordance with strict instructions, is earnestly requested.

1. Tea buyers, related staff and visitors with symptoms of influenza, cold and cough must refrain from attending the tea auction.
2. Auction participants from each company should be limited to the bare necessities.
3. Auction participants should be instructed regarding personal hygiene, guidelines on which have been widely publicized by medical professionals.
4. Auction participants should leave the auction rooms no sooner their assignments are completed and should also not linger within the Chamber premises.
5. Medically vulnerable employees should not be sent to the auction.
6. Physical contact with other participants at the Auction should be avoided.
7. Personal records of all employees associated with the tea auctions should be diligently maintained to facilitate expeditious traceability, in the eventuality of detection of any infected individual, who may have had access to the auction rooms. This should include details of permanent residence, city, town or village from which they generally commute to their employer’s office, locations where they expect to spend the New Year or other holiday periods.
8. As a safeguard of their own health and of others they may encounter, all employees should be strongly advised to report to the CTTA, without any delay, any suspected cases or symptoms of Covid-19, of which they may become aware.
9. Auction participants should use the hand sanitizers provided at the entrance of each auction room and on the rostrums.
10. Auction participants should arrive at the Chamber at least half an hour before the commencement of the auction, in view of the likely delays in temperature checking.

**THE SECRETARIAT**

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