

COVID-19: SEBI eases compliance norms, lets firms report earnings by 30 June

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The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Thursday relaxed compliance norms for companies which have been struggling to cope with COVID-19 outbreak, and allowed them to file their quarterly and annual financial results by 30 June.

Earlier, companies had to report their earnings as soon as they were ready after the quarter ended, the maximum time being a month. In case, results were delayed for reasons such as auditor resignation or court cases companies had to inform stock exchanges.

The relaxations come in the backdrop of businesses taking a hit as many companies have asked their employees to work from home and imposed travel restrictions.

"It has been declared a 'pandemic' by the World Health Organization (WHO). Developments arising due to the spread of the virus have warranted the need for temporary relaxations in compliance requirements for listed entities," said SEBI in the press statement.

SEBI has also relaxed compliance norms for submitting governance report by one month, the quarterly shareholding pattern by 3 weeks.

Governance report for this quarter is due by 15 April but companies can now submit them by 15 May, while for shareholding pattern the due date is 21 April but firms have been given time till 15 May.

These steps follow the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' (MCA) steps on Wednesday, relaxing norms for holding physical board meeting following the COVID-19 outbreak.