ANNEX

to Resolution of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 1104 dd August 25, 2021

**INSTRUCTION**

**on Prevention of Spread of Coronavirus Infection (Covid-19) During Elections of the President of the Republic Of Uzbekistan**

This Instruction shall establish the procedure for preventing the spread of coronavirus infection (COVID-19) among members of the election commission and other participants in the election process during the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Chapter 1. General Provisions**

1. Members of election commissions, voters, observers and mass media shall be required to use the following means of protection and prophylaxis in constituencies and polling stations, voting rooms:

thermometer for measuring temperature, pyrometer;

protective mask;

disposable medical gloves (for election commission members);

antiseptic liquid (sanitizer).

2. Participants in the election process must comply with the following requirements:

use of protective masks;

avoidance of shaking hands or other forms of direct contact;

adherence to social distance.

3. In order to maintain the social distance at the entrance to the premises where the constituency and precinct election commissions are located and in the voting room, there shall be lines indicating the distance of 1,5-2 meters and indicating the direction of movement.

Posters with recommendations on how to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection shall be placed at the entrance to the voting building.

4. Election commissions shall be provided with means of protection and disinfection in the amount specified in the Annex to this Instruction at the expense of the state budget allocated for the election campaign and other sources not prohibited by law.

5. At least one medical worker shall be attached to the premises where constituency and precinct election commissions are located.

The medical worker shall ensure compliance with sanitary regulations in the territory of the constituency and precinct, respectively. A medical worker may not interfere in the work of an election commission, participate in the counting of votes and the determination of election results.

6. The attached medical officer shall measure the body temperature of the visitors at the entrance of the election commission buildings, disinfect their hands with an antiseptic agent and provide a protective mask if necessary.

7. Employees of the territorial departments, district (city) departments of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Service for Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-being and Public Health shall monitor the implementation of measures to prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 infection in the voting building, specified in the Sanitary Rules and Norms of the Republic of Uzbekistan and this Instruction, without interfering with the activities of election commissions.

8. Visitors shall not be admitted to the premises of the election commission if their body temperature is 37 degree and above.

9. Daily analysis of the epidemiological situation in the territory of the constituency shall be carried out by the territorial departments of the Sanitary-Epidemiological Well-being and Public Health Service. If necessary, relevant recommendations may be given to election commissions.

10. Members of precinct election commissions must use personal protective equipment (protective mask, antiseptic) in carrying out their activities.

Precinct election commission members shall be advised to use plastic masks to protect their faces on election day.

11. Voters and other participants in the electoral process must maintain a social distance in the polling station, and wear a protective mask.

**Chapter 2. Implementation of Preventive Measures during the Election Process**

12. Disinfection of buildings and premises where constituency and precinct election commissions are located, as well as implementation of anti-epidemic measures in them shall be provided by territorial departments, district (city) departments of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Sanitary-Epidemiological Well-being and Public Health Service.

13. As a rule, disinfection shall carried out after the completion of the daily work of constituency and precinct election commissions.

Voting premises and rooms of all precinct election commissions shall be disinfected at least six hours before the start of voting on election day.

14. Disinfection works shall be carried out in the voting room, corridors of the building, public places (toilets, elevators, stairs, etc.).

15. Disinfection works shall be carried out with taking into account the recommendations of the Ministry of Health and use of disinfectants prescribed by them.

16. Polling stations shall have sufficient drinking water for members of precinct election commissions on election day.

Eating meal shall be forbidden in the voting room.

17. A container for disposal of used masks and other personal protective equipment shall be installed at the exit from the voting building.

18. In the event that the constituency located on the “red” zone, the members of the commission shall be provided with the following means for compulsory use during their work:

special overalls, gowns;

to protect the respiratory system - a medical mask;

to protect the organs of vision - a plastic mask for the face;

to protect hands - medical gloves;

hand and facial skin disinfectants, solutions, products containing chlorine and alcohol.

19. In the event that the constituency located on the “yellow” zone, the members of the commission shall be provided with the following means for compulsory use during their work:

to protect the respiratory system - a medical mask;

to protect the organs of vision - a plastic mask for the face;

to protect hands - medical gloves;

hand and facial skin disinfectants, solutions, products containing chlorine and alcohol.

20. Personal protective equipment and other necessary items shall be delivered to constituency election commissions at least 15 days before the election and to precinct election commissions at least 13 days before the election.

Specialists of the territorial departments, district (city) departments of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Sanitary-Epidemiological Well-being and Public Health Service may conduct special trainings or make recommendations on the use of personal protective equipment, compliance with the rules of sanitary-hygienic and anti-epidemic routine.

21. Necessary conditions shall be created for members of constituency and precinct election commissions to be vaccinated against coronavirus infection.

Members of the commission (chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and other members) with a body temperature of 37 degrees and above shall be temporarily suspended from work and undergo an out of line laboratory test for coronavirus infection. In this respect, the commission member must be provided with the results of the PCR test analysis within one working day.

If a commission member is found to be infected with a coronavirus (COVID-19) six or less days before the election or has not recovered from a coronavirus (COVID-19) infection prior to election day, as well as if the body temperature on election day is 37 degrees and above, respectively, the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in accordance with the decision of the constituency election commission, may remove him / her from the commission and a new member (chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and other member) may be included in the commission.

22. The chairman of the relevant election commission shall be responsible for the timely and complete provision of personal protective equipment to the members of the commission.

**Chapter 3 Organizing the Voting Process**

23. Informing voters about the place and time of voting may be additionally carried out by means of mass media, information and communication technologies and propaganda materials.

24. On the day of voting, members of the election commission shall sit at a social distance and change their protective masks at least once every 3 hours during their work.

25. When a voter, another participant of the election process, enters the polling station, his body temperature shall be measured and antiseptic liquid sprinkled on his hand, a voter and other participant of the election process without a protective mask shall be given a protective mask, after which he/she shall be admitted to the building.

26. Voters and other participants in the election process shall not be admitted to the voting room if their body temperature is 37 degree or higher.

In this respect, voters with a body temperature of 37C and above shall be provided with the right to vote by secret ballot using mobile ballot boxes and booths in the presence of two members of the precinct election commission in separate places (entrance of the building, etc.).

27. The voter, keeping the social distance, shall open the corresponding page of the identity document and allow the commission member to get acquainted with this document without contact.

If necessary, in order to identify a voter on the basis of an identity document, a member of the precinct election commission may ask the voter to briefly remove his / her protective mask and show his / her face.

The voter shall be recommended to wear medical gloves in the following cases:

when signing the voter list;

upon receipt of a ballot paper;

when filling out the ballot paper in the secret ballot booth (room).

28. Curtains shall not be hung in secret voting booths.

Portable voting booths can be used to organize voting.

The voter shall be recommended not to spend more than one minute in the secret ballot box.

29. After exercising the right to vote, the voter shall be advised to disinfect his hands with antiseptic means.

**Chapter 4. Organizing Voting at the Place of Residence of a Voter who is Being Treated at Home for a Coronavirus Infection**

30. When organizing voting at the place of residence of a voter who is being treated for coronavirus infection at home (hereinafter referred to as the voter), the precinct election commission shall prepare a special set of means of protection for the voter.

The package in the cellophane package should include:

medical mask;

medical gloves;

sealed ballot paper signed by two members of the precinct election commission.

31. At least two members of a precinct election commission shall disinfect a portable ballot box and go to the voter's place of residence, protected by personal protective equipment.

The identity of the voter shall be identified while keeping the social distance between the voter and the commission members, then the commission member shall give the voter a package in a cellophane bag and an extract from the voter list for signing.

The voter shall sign an extract from the voter list confirming that he / she has received the ballot paper. The voter shall be guaranteed the right to vote by secret ballot. After that, the voter shall cast the ballot in the portable ballot box.

After the voting, the commission member shall disinfect the parts (surface, side and handle) of the portable ballot box.

Observers and media representatives present at this time must be protected by personal protective equipment.

32. Polling stations may be set up in inpatient treatment facilities for coronavirus infection and for the organization of voting for voters who are employees of these facilities.

Portable voting booths shall be used in this category of buildings to organize secret ballot.

Voting at polling stations organized in these facilities shall be conducted in strict compliance with the internal procedures of these institutions and the requirements of the Sanitary Rules and Norms of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Chapter 5. Counting of Votes at the Polling Station and Determination of the Election Results in the Constituency**

33. The precinct election commission shall carry out the process of counting votes by disinfecting their hands, parts of ballot boxes (surface, side and handle) as well as the place prepared for counting of votes, using protective equipment. In doing so, special attention should be paid to adherence to social distance.

34. Authorized representatives of political parties, observers and media representatives present at the counting of votes and determination of the election results in the constituency shall use a medical mask and observe social distance.

35. Members of the precinct election commission shall be recommended to use separate pens each when filling out the protocol on the results of counting of votes.

36. When accepting the protocols of the precinct election commission on the results of the vote count and filling in the relevant protocol, the constituency election commission must comply with the requirements for the use of protective equipment and social distance.

**Chapter 6 Final Provisions**

37. After summing up the results of the voting, the members of the election commission shall remove the personal protective equipment and throw it in a special container for disposal.

38. Persons found guilty of violating the requirements of this Instruction shall be liable in accordance with the legislation.

39. This Instruction is agreed with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Agreed:**

**Minister of Health**

**of Republic of Uzbekistan A. Khadjibaev**

ANNEX

to the Instruction on prevention of spread of coronavirus infection (COVID-19) during elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**Normative amounts of protective clothing and disinfectants required to comply with the rules of personal protection at the polling station**

**I. Protective masks**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Distribution guide** | **Purpose** |
| Constituency | 5 for each member of the constituency election commission  (21 x 5 = 105 pieces) | To organize an election |
| Polling station | 5 for each member of the precinct election commission  (13 x 5 = 65 pieces) | To organize a voting |
| Voting building | Depending on the number of voters  Up to 2000;  For observers and the media  10 | To conduct a voting |

**II. Masks for the face (plastic) for members of the precinct election commission**

(total 12 pieces)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Distribution guide** | **Purpose** |
| Polling station | A total of 12 for members of the precinct election commission | For the election campaign period |

**In case the polling station is included in the red or yellow zone by the decision of the special commission, the members of the precinct election commission shall be additionally recommended the following means of protection:**

**III. Protective clothing (type IV)**

(total 12 pieces)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Distribution guide** | **Purpose** |
| Polling station | A total of 12 for members of the precinct election commission | For use in the organization of electoral processes |

**IV. Disinfectants for hands**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Distribution guide** | **Purpose** |
| Constituency | 2 for each member of the district election commission | To organize the election |
| Polling station | vial (100 ml.) | Compilation of voter lists, organization and conduct of voting |
| Voting building | 1 for each member of the precinct election commission | To conduct a voting |

**V. Disinfectant wipes**

(50 packs in total, 75 in a pack)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Distribution guide** | **Purpose** |
| Constituency | For the district election commission *(2 packs in total, 75 in a pack)* | For the election period |
| Polling station | To each polling station  *(2 packs in total, 75 in a pack)* | For disinfection of election equipment and items during the commission's activity |

**VI. Disposable gloves**

(100 pieces in one set, sizes S, M, L)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Distribution guide** | **Purpose** |
| Constituency | For members of the district election commission for 15 working days  1 piece (15x11 = 165 pieces, 2 sets) | For the election period |
| Polling station | 15 working days for each member of the precinct election commission  1 piece  (15x11 = 165 pieces, 2 sets) | For the period of implementation of the Commission's activities |

**VII. Disposable polyethylene gloves and polyethylene bags for use in voting at the place of residence**

(100 pieces in one set)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Distribution guide** | **Purpose** |
| Polling station | 10 for each polling station, taking into account the voting at the polling station | For the period of implementation of the Commission's activities |