

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN JAPAN



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting on COVID-19 outbreak in Uzbekistan

On March 26, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting on coronavirus outbreak in the country. Here are the key updates you need to know from the event.

All medical institutions of Uzbekistan are operating in an enhanced regime. 11 medical institutions, 97 sanatoriums, camps and resident houses are transformed to work on a quarantine mode;

Currently 80 thousand people remain in home quarantine; 12 thousand Uzbekistani in hospitals;

Around 100 thousand medical workers are involved in combatting COVID-19 in Uzbekistan;



For the last 10 days around 4 thousand citizens came back from Russia, Turkey, Iran, UAE, South Korea, Egypt, Malaysia, India, Thailand, Indonesia and Germany. Additionally, more than 80 thousand Uzbek citizens returned from neighboring counties;

Individuals who put the lives of other people in an endangered situation during the quarantine can be imprisoned for 10 years;

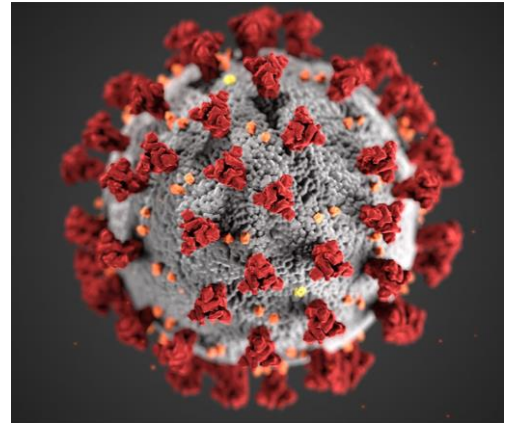
Shavkat Mirziyoyev stated that COVID-19 infected medical workers who would be infected while performing their professional duties will receive an additional pay totaling 100 million soums (around \$10 thousand);

Uzbekistan is planning to purchase 300 thousand express tests and 500 artificial respiration devices;

How does Uzbekistan respond to coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

As of March 30, 2020 the world counts over 720 thousand COVID-19 infected people. That numbers comes from 175 countries and regions, including Uzbekistan.

The first coronavirus infection in Uzbekistan has been detected on March 15 from a citizen who returned from France. The same day, the Prime-Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov who leads the Special Republican Commission for preventing the spread of coronavirus hosted a press-conference on the actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country.



As a first step, the government shut down kinder gardens, schools and higher educational institutions for quarantine and introduced online lessons that are currently being broadcasted via National Television.

Follow that, Uzbekistan suspended all air flights and road-transportation with foreign countries. The country has also cancelled all major celebrations, including Navruz and asked citizens to abstain from hosting large events like weddings, parties and religious gatherings.

Meanwhile, no emergency situation status has been announced in Uzbekistan.

Although the country closed its borders, the government decided to arrange charter flights for citizens who expressed willingness to return back. Upon their arrival all of them are bring placed to a 14-day long quarantine zone outside Tashkent.

On March 18, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev during the meeting with officials delivered the address to the people, calling for unity and perseverance free of panic. He also reassured country's readiness to combat the spread of infectious disease and plans to build three hospitals for COVID-19 infected people.

The following day the President unleashed a decree that foresees the establishment of Anti-Crisis Fund with the budget amounting 10 trillion soums (roughly 1,6 billion dollars) to be streamlined to combat coronavirus.

Besides, the decree foresaw financial incentives for entrepreneurs and citizens struggling to make their living.

Later, on March 21, Tashkent city has terminated all public transportation aiming to cut the spread of virus. On that particular day, the

number of infected rose to 42 people. Two days later, Uzbekistan obligated all citizens to wear a sanitary mask while staying in public and work.

Over the weekend, following government's recommendation to stay home, local news outlets along with bloggers kicked-off a campaign by changing their profile picture that stated: "Stay Home". That was also a support of Uzbekistani doctors who joined a worldwide awareness-raising challenge.

As number of infected grew slowly, national airways company Uzbekistan Airways stopped all internal flights. Non-food product outlets and shopping malls were also shut down. Meanwhile, the number of infected grew to 50.

To further fortify measures in combatting the spread of COVID-19, Uzbekistan terminated the call for military service and allowed businesses to receive a force-majeure circumstance status.

On March 25, following President's decree the government informed that it aims to construct one out of several hospitals for COVID-19 infected within 5 days. The hospital will be able to host 10 thousand people at once.

As of March 30, 145 cases of COVID-19 infection registered in Uzbekistan.

The first 7 patients with coronavirus infection fully recovered



According to the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan, thanks to doctor's efforts, first 7 patients with coronavirus infection in the country have fully recovered.

They were sent to the Republican Specialized Scientific Practical Medical Center for Therapy and

Medical Rehabilitation. People who have recovered from the disease will be quarantined in this center for some time.

Jack Ma Foundation to send humanitarian aid to Uzbekistan

Chinese billionaire Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba Group, and his charity fund announced that they will send humanitarian aid to seven Asian countries, including Uzbekistan.

Apart from Uzbekistan, the list of countries that will receive aid includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, India, Bhutan and Vietnam.

According to Reuters, a total of 1.7 million masks, 165,000 test kits, protective uniforms and medical equipment (such as respirators, fever measuring devices) will be sent to these countries.



The Jack Ma Foundation has already provided humanitarian aid to European countries, Russia and the United States.

Earlier, the International Chodiev Foundation has also announced that it will assist Uzbekistan in the fight against coronavirus.

In addition, Uzbekistan also received more than 8 tons of humanitarian aid from the United Arab Emirates on March 28.

Uzbekistan improves its position in the ranking of world's happiest countries



The United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network in partnership with the Ernesto Illy Foundation has published the [World Happiness Report 2019](#), according to which Uzbekistan rose to three positions and took 41th place among 156 countries of the world this year.

While compiling the

rating, the experts considered the level of GDP per capita, the level of social support of citizens by the state, the duration of healthy life, the freedom to independently make vital decisions, generosity and attitude to corruption.

This year Uzbekistan continues to occupy a leading position in the ranking among the CIS countries. Kazakhstan was ranked 60th in the rating, Russia - 68th, Tajikistan - 74th, Belarus - 81th, Kyrgyzstan - 86th, Turkmenistan – 87th and Azerbaijan - 90th.

Finland tops the ranking for the third time in a row. Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, New Zealand, Austria and Luxembourg are also among the ten happiest countries.

UzAuto Motors cars production launched in Kazakhstan

Prime Minister of Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov and Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin opened a joint Kazakh-Uzbek automobile assembly line of new Chevrolet brand models at the Kostanay Automobile Plant in Kostanay (Kazakhstan).



The Prime Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin and the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov gave an official start to the joint project of SaryarkaAvtoProm LLP and UzAuto Motors JSC.

On the new production line until the end of 2020, more than 1 thousand highly productive jobs will be created, which is of particular importance in the context of increasing labor flows between the services and production sectors. Currently, the plant operates in three shifts with a full load.

Several new Chevrolet car models will be assembled at the new production line – Damas, Labo, Trailblazer, Malibu, Spark, etc. The final cost of the Chevrolet Damas bus and Chevrolet Labo truck will be about 3 million tenge, which increases their attractiveness for small and medium-sized businesses in trade, logistics, agricultural and other fields.

World Bank to Provide Further Support to Modernization of Uzbekistan's Agriculture Sector



The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved today a \$500 million financing package for implementation of the Agriculture Modernization Project in Uzbekistan.

The project will help the country modernize institutions and upgrade agricultural research and development capabilities. Local farmers and agribusinesses will benefit from more modern technologies, advisory and extension services, capacity building, long-term financing and agro-logistical services. As a result, they will gain better access to internal and external markets.

“Agriculture generates more than 30 percent of GDP, employs 27 percent of the country's labor force, or around 3.6 million workers, and earns 25 percent of all export revenues,” said Hideki Mori, World Bank Country Manager for Uzbekistan. “Modernization of the agriculture sector will lead to many better-paid jobs in rural areas, improved food security, and higher export revenues for Uzbekistan.”

The World Bank supports Uzbekistan through technical assistance and the financing of 22 projects totaling around \$3.73 billion. These projects provide support in critical areas such as macroeconomic policies, agriculture, health, education, water supply and sanitation, energy, transport, social protection, and urban and rural development.