



## EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN JAPAN



### INFORMATION BULLETIN

#### **Coronavirus situation in Uzbekistan is improving considerably**

Nowadays the whole world is fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic with all countries deploying and mobilizing their financial, intellectual and human resources.

The first coronavirus infection in Uzbekistan was detected on March 15. The same day the Special Republican Commission was established with the aim of preventing the spread of coronavirus in the country. As a first step, the Government shut down kindergartens, schools and higher educational institutions for quarantine.

**Uzbekistan has been implementing various socio-economic, administrative and legal measures to ensure comprehensive and effective fight against COVID-19.** In order to conduct the effective monitoring of the epidemiological situation, all necessary measures were taken on the basis of international experience.

**First**, a strict lockdown system was introduced nationwide. In order to boost the responsibility of the population, the Uzbek Government made appropriate amendments to the legislation within a short period of time.

**Second**, specialized medical institutions and quarantine zones were set up in all regions of the country to effectively combat the coronavirus.

For example, in the Tashkent region a specialized shutdown zone for 20 thousand beds was commissioned, 10 thousand of which are already in use. By the end of April, the construction of a 10-thousand-bed modern modular clinic was completed. Both facilities are outfitted with everything necessary, including appropriate equipment and staff. More than 100 thousand people are under quarantine, including more than 2,2 thousand citizens, returned from abroad.



In the meantime the Government introduced a comprehensive stimulation package and social protection measure for dedicated medical workers, who are at the forefront of the fight against the coronavirus.

**Third**, in order to prevent the spread of the disease in advance, a wide explanatory work is carried out among the population.

**Fourth**, to ensure the continuity of the education system, all schools, secondary and higher educational institutions have switched to a remote system with online lessons being broadcasted via national television programs.

**Fifth**, the population is provided with food, medicines and essential medical products, as well as other vital goods uninterruptedly.

A system has been formed to provide targeted assistance to persons with disabilities, low-income and vulnerable segments of the population.

Non-governmental organizations and civic institutions, as well as the general public, are also actively engaged in this process.



**Sixth**, specific mechanisms of comprehensive support for all spheres and sectors of the economy were formed. To this end, an Anti-Crisis Fund with \$1 billion asset was established. A new nationwide movement “Kindness and Support” aims at further ensuring the supply of food and medical care to families in need and temporary unemployed people. Entrepreneurs are encouraged to take responsibility to give selfless support to families in their neighborhood. The Government in its turn granted entrepreneurs with tax holidays, opportunity to “freeze” interest on bank loans, and reduction of tax rates and customs duties on imported goods.

As the next step on this way, a national system of in-depth monitoring and forecasting of the epidemiological situation in the country is being introduced.

For the treatment of patients infected with the coronavirus, a regular experience exchange system has been established with highly qualified doctors from Republic of Korea, China, Russia, Japan, USA, and Germany with extensive application of their most advanced treatment methods, including telemedicine.

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev regularly holds a government meetings and videoconferences with regional administrations on the measures to combat the coronavirus pandemic in the country.

At the same time the President pays great attention to communication and cooperation with foreign partners on the issue of fighting against the coronavirus. He had telephone talks with leaders of Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan), as well as

Afghanistan, China, Republic of Korea, Russia, Turkey, and UN Secretary General António Guterres.

As of **May 1**, there are 2039 confirmed cases of the diseased and 9 deaths, which is a relatively **low number** for a country with 34 million population. The fact that more than 1133 people recovered from the virus demonstrates the professionalism of Uzbek doctors and the effectiveness of a national healthcare system.

With the growth curve of patients with coronavirus in Uzbekistan beginning to flatten and that of convalescent rising there are hopes that Uzbekistan will cope with the coronavirus infection in the near future. But, as the virus has yet to disappear, now the priority is placed on a gradual, balanced, and cautious exit from the quarantine regime, so that not to provoke new outbreaks. Much attention is paid towards not only the resumption of economic activity, but also the support and the strengthening of the economic potential of Uzbekistan, its competitiveness on the global market.

On April 29, given the positive developments in the sanitary-epidemiological situation, good weather conditions, and numerous appeals of the citizens President Shavkat Mirziyoyev instructed the Government to continue the gradual easing of the lockdown after May 10 if the situation gets better. However, the President emphasized that the overall observance of sanitary norms and social distancing be of paramount importance.