


ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND COVID-19 IN LIGHT OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, 2021

Giorgi Kalandarishvili
Chairperson of Central Election Commission of Georgia
29 October 2021


ELECTION ADMINISTRATION'S PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOR SAFE ELECTORAL ENVIRONMENT

- ❑ The Election Administration has a successful experience in holding elections amid the pandemic (2020 parliamentary election)
- ❑ Preventive measures the Election Administration applied – testing employees with antigen rapid diagnostic tests (Ag-RDT) on COVID-19 weekly and on E-day (2021 municipal elections)
- ❑ Organizing vaccination process for Election Administration employees (all levels)


SPECIAL MEASURES TAKEN BY THE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION



The CEC in cooperation with electoral stakeholders addresses issues related to holding elections amid the pandemic by adopting special decrees



Decrees define sanitary-hygienic rules for voters being in isolation, penitentiary institutions, and inpatient treatment facilities, as well as an epidemiological protocol for E-day



A new addition to the regulation to safeguard the electoral process (rapid/PCR test results)

MORE MEASURES TO ENSURE SAFE ELECTORAL PROCESS



Using CEC's News Briefings for Appealing the staff of the election administration at all levels to duly follow a) COVID-regulations b) get vaccinated



Setting criteria for polling process such as polling buildings with natural ventilation and large halls for polling process and for vote recounts (the so-called tabulation centers)



Certain changes prompted by electoral reform (random recounts of 5 polling stations per electoral district)

VOTER INFORMATION CAMPAIGN – KEY TO VOTER PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS DURING THE PANDEMIC

- ❑ The CEC runs a large-scale voter information campaign
- ❑ Voter information campaign includes TV and radio advertisements as well as social media
- ❑ The campaign also targets self-isolated voters informing them on how to vote in upcoming elections



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION