



COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR CAMPAIGNING

The information contained in this protocol is subject to constant review by the Department of Health and Wellness in the light of the changing environment, Government, Health and legislative requirements. Political Parties, persons attending rallies, house holders and campaign workers shall be in compliance with the protocols contained herein as well as all applicable laws and regulations for the sector and country.

INTRODUCTION

Elections usually involve sizeable, state gatherings, not only on Election Day but also during campaign rallies and voter registration drives. These events increase human-to-human contact and the risks of direct and indirect – via infected surfaces – virus transmission. Holding such events amid a disease outbreak can pose serious risks to public health.

Officials would have to adjust the activity schedule, implement new and improved procedures that reduce the potential for virus transmission. There should be stakeholder co-ordination across the political divide to ensure all these changes are feasible and accepted.

PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Political Party (Administration)

- Administration must design a Covid-19 Action plan to submit to the Environmental Health Division for review and appraisal prior to the campaign period. The plan must detail measures put in place to address all areas of the operation to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during the conducting of campaigns, taking into consideration but not limited to the following;
 - Social distancing for all appropriate areas.
 - Outlining procedures for dealing with an individual who becomes ill at the rally.

- Provisions for frequent cleaning and sanitizing of equipment and surfaces and hygiene of participants/followers.
- Identify a team that will audit the COVID-19 Action Plan and SOPs to ensure compliance on the designated day.

PRE-CAMPAIGN PERIOD

Voter Education

- Sensitisation of communities, party supporters and politicians:
Develop and publicise code of conduct for political parties - Set guidelines for conducting campaigns:
 - Ensure message is clear, accessible and frequent on campaign processes:
Information on COVID-19, its modes of transmission, and ways of combating it; follow best practices in health literacy (short messages that use active voice, familiar words and culturally relevant visuals should be used)
 - Provide messages that promote behaviours such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, practicing physical distancing
- Educate all election staff and volunteers on campaigning process and measures put in place to protect them.

CAMPAIGN PERIOD

The stage of the outbreak in a country or region- Case growth trajectory will provide authorities with an idea of whether the number of infections is on an upward trajectory, has stabilized or is declining, in conjunction with this the existing Country regulations. While these variables alone cannot guarantee the safety of elections, as new spikes can occur, stable and declining numbers provide a more optimistic scenario for elections. This will help determine whether authorities will allow Public Rallies or postpone them.

Meetings/Conferences

- In-person meetings should be limited and done virtually where possible.
- For in person meetings physical distancing must be followed space (a minimum of 30 square feet per individual)
- Wearing of appropriate face covering
- Details of attendees must be recorded for contact tracing purposes
An accurate record of attendees would include:
 - A person's full name
 - Their address
 - An effective means of communicating with them (for example, an active phone number or email address)
 - Time at which the person arrived and left the event

In-Person Public Rallies (outdoor/indoor)

- Candidates and teams must ensure that all applicable sections of the Covid 19 (prevention and Control) Act 2020 are implemented:
 - Mass crowd gathering (impose limits on the number of individuals permitted at gatherings) in relation to venue size
 - Wearing of mask
 - Social distancing
 - Environmental Sanitization
 - Hand Hygiene
- Ensure crowd control measures are instituted
- Provide adequate security
- Provide washroom facilities which should be manned and sanitized
- Provide designated ingresses and egresses

Door-to-Door Campaigning

- Candidates and teams must ensure that all applicable sections of the Covid 19 (prevention and Control) Act 2020 are implemented
- People conducting door-to-door campaigns must:
 - Practice risk-mitigation measures to limit person to-person interaction and mitigate risks from transferring leaflets and other campaign material, it is important that campaigners maintain a safe distance from others.
 - Wear masks or appropriate face covering/other protective equipment;
 - Adopt ways of delivering material that reduce unnecessary touching (e.g. leaving materials outside the door rather than handing them directly to residents).

OUTDOOR/OPEN AIR RALLIES

Proposed rallies should be conducted within large open areas

- Candidates and teams must ensure that all applicable sections of the Covid 19 (prevention and Control) Act 2020 are implemented:
 - Mass crowd gathering (impose limits on the number of individuals permitted at gatherings)

Wearing Of Mask

Ensure face mask or appropriate face coverings are worn:
By all followers and
All candidates on stage

Social Distancing

Maintain physical distancing between:

Candidates on the stage
Followers on the ground

Environmental sanitization

Ensure mics and podiums are sanitized after each speaker

Hand Hygiene

Provide adequate measures to facilitate hand hygiene within candidates on stage and crowd

Security

- Provide adequate security to maintain and enforce crowd control and adherence to protocols amongst followers
- Provide washroom facilities which should be manned and sanitized
- Provide designated ingress and egress

MOTORCADES

- Organizers should reduce the need for in-person coordination by providing written or telephone directions in advance of the event
- limit the number of vehicles permitted
- Individuals must not gather outside of their vehicles before or after the motorcade
- Participants should remain in their vehicles during the entire event and not congregate outside
- Each vehicle participating in the motorcade should be comprised of individuals from the same extended bubble family
- Vehicles should not drive parallel to each other at any time and should proceed in single file through the motorcade route
- Motorcyclists must maintain a minimum separation of 2 meters
- Participants should disperse immediately following the motorcade
- The motorcade route should be as short as possible
- The rules of the road must be followed at all times; and
- Relevant regulations with respect to events/parades must be followed
- Mask or appropriate face covering should be worn at all times

MEAL SERVICE

- If meals or beverages are provided they should be prepacked

GENERAL

- Political parties must comply with all requisites of the existing Covid 19 (Prevention and Control) Act and its enabling regulations:
 - Provide instructions on health precautions for public rallies, debates and other gatherings
 - Adopt or expand access to the media and other methods for remote campaigning
 - Consider televised debates between candidates
 - Consider debates, press briefings and other events broadcast via radio, television or online.
 - Outdoor events provide more space and better ventilation. Ensure physical distancing of two metres (or six feet), and provide hand-washing stations with hand sanitizer, if possible.

- **Applications for staging of rallies/ Motorcades should be done using the prescribed form through the office of the Commissioner of Police days before the activity.**

INSERT APPLICATION FORM

***Please insert form based on the information needed.**