



**NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION (NEMO)
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
WEST INDIES**

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October 28, 2020

HEALTH SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

**ADVISORY ON THE HEALTH PROTOCOL FOR THE CONDUCT OF
ELECTIONS IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES DURING THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

OBJECTIVE:

**To minimize the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) during the conduct of
General Elections in St. Vincent and the Grenadines:**

1. Minimize the potential for creating COVID-19 super-spreader events.
2. Reduce the potential of spread of COVID-19 at polling stations on election day.

BACKGROUND:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has recorded seventy-four (74) COVID-19 cases as of Wednesday, October 28, 2020. There are four (4) active cases in isolation. There is currently no evidence of local or community spread of COVID-19 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

This advisory recognizes the increased risk of the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines due to the arrival of travelers from countries with rising cases of the virus.

HEALTH GUIDELINES:

The period 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm has been agreed to as the time assigned for voting on Thursday, November 5, 2020, by eligible electors/voters who are in day 6 to day 14 quarantine. As a result,

during 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm on Thursday November 5, 2020, only electors/voters in day 6 to 14 quarantine and holding the appropriate Medical Officer's Order will be allowed to vote.

This agreement was concluded during a meeting chaired by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Christian Council on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, and which included the Supervisor of Elections, the Attorney General, the Chief Medical Officer and representatives of all political parties contesting the November 5, 2020, General Elections in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. There will be no mixing of electors/voters in quarantine with general electors/voters. Where general electors/voters are still in the queue at 5:00 pm waiting to vote, the elector/voters holding the appropriate Medical Officer's Order, will wait until the general voters have voted to enter the queue.

The following measures are strongly recommended:

a. Rallies and Meetings:

1. All campaign rallies and meetings should be held outdoors with sufficient space to avoid crowding.
2. The **use of facial coverings by all persons** attending rallies and meetings is strongly advised.

The following measures were agreed:

b. Procedures at polling stations on election day:

1. All polling station workers and officials will wear face coverings/masks at all times and regularly sanitize their hands or change their gloves.
2. All general voters/electors are encouraged to wear masks/face coverings while at the polling station.
3. Hand sanitization will be implemented before and during the voting process:
 - a. Before the removal of face covering to allow for the verification of identity.
 - b. After the replacement of the face covering following the verification of identity.
 - c. Before dipping finger in the indelible ink well.
4. **Procedures for electors/voters in quarantine (day 6 to day 14):** These persons are considered to be of low risk (have arrived with a negative PCR result and have day 1 and day 5 negative PCR results) potential to transmit COVID-19 to others.

- a. Eligible electors/voters who are on day six (6) to day fourteen (14) of quarantine due to the possible exposure to COVID-19, will be provided with a Medical Officer's Order detailing the quarantine period excluding 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm on November 5, 2020. This will allow the holder to leave their quarantine sites to vote at their allocated polling station in accordance with the provisions made by or under the Representation of the People Act, Cap. 9.
- b. All eligible voters/electors granted the appropriate Medical Officer's Order **must** wear a face mask for the entire duration of the period out of their quarantine site and follow all instructions in terms of spacing and sanitization.
- c. All eligible voters/electors granted the appropriate Medical Officer's Order must travel to and from the allotted polling station in a vehicle which allows sufficient spacing between the suitably masked elector/voter and the suitably masked driver. The transportation of these voters/electors to and from their quarantine sites will be the responsibility of the voter/elector and not the Electoral Office or the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment.

5. Procedures for electors/voters in quarantine (day 1 to day 5) and in isolation:

Electors/voters who are isolated as positive COVID-19 cases, or on day one (1) to day five (5) quarantine due to the possible exposure to COVID-19, will not be allowed to leave their quarantine or isolation sites to vote. These persons are considered to be of high risk (have a positive PCR result) and medium risk (arrived with a negative PCR result and have a day 1 negative PCR result) potential to transmit COVID-19 to others.

The Health Services Subcommittee will make available to the Electoral Office lists of the names of all travelers 18 years and older, arriving in St. Vincent and the Grenadines between the period October 22, 2020 to November 4, 2020 and subsequently quarantined. The Electoral Office will from this list of arrivals, prepare a list of the eligible electors/voters who are in quarantine. These electors/voters will be provided with a Medical Officer's Order detailing their quarantine period which will exclude 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm on November 5, 2020, to allow the holder to leave their quarantine sites to vote.

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Prepared by the Health Services Subcommittee of the National Emergency Committee/COVID-19 Task Force. October 28, 2020.