

POLITICS

Gov't adopts additional restrictions as the Covid-19 cases increase in Georgia



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Restaurants, spas and gyms to toughen regulations for guests in September

Elene Khoshtaria presents her political party Droa

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BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) and CRRC Georgia released a poll on Thursday revealing that Georgians remain concerned over the state of the economy and healthcare. According to the NDI, after months of political deadlock and against the background of the Covid-19 pandemic 'the public is pessimistic about the direction of their country and the performance of institutions'. 52% of respondents assessed the performance of the government as bad, while 36% evaluated it as good. 9% did not know.

As the poll revealed Georgians are the most concerned about unemployment, poverty, and rising prices/inflation, the majority of them claiming that they can afford fewer products and services than before the pandemic. According to 56% of respondents, the cost of medicine is the biggest issue facing Georgia's healthcare system today. As 8% of the surveyed people reported, they have lost their jobs completely, while 13% face salary reduction and the majority remain unemployed.

As for the epidemiological situation, a plurality of citizens (42 percent) believe that the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic is yet to come. 45% said that the vaccination process is going badly, and 42 percent of citizens feel that

Economy and public health are top issues for Georgian people, NDI poll says



NDI

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE

► The poll revealed that vaccination hesitancy remains high as 47% of respondents said they would not get vaccinated.



► According to the poll, Georgian people are the most concerned about unemployment (59%), rising prices (42%), poverty, and the devaluation of the Lari (19%).

they do not have enough information about the vaccination process. As NDI reports, vaccine hesitancy remains high, the main reason being low credibility towards the vaccine. 47% of the respondents said they do not trust the quality of the COVID-19 vaccine, 20% named health-related issues as the reason, 13% believe that handling the COVID-19 pandemic is possible without vaccination, and 7% believe "vaccination has alternative goals." Only 2% said they are generally against vaccination.

"Ensuring a smooth rollout of the

vaccine and making use of trusted medical professionals to provide the public with accurate information will be critical to the government's effort to safeguard public health. The lack of information can slow down vaccine distribution and prevent citizens from making informed decisions about their health," said Alan Gillam, NDI Georgia Country Director.

According to the survey, 49% of respondents say Georgia is going in the wrong direction, as opposed to 23% saying the country is going in the right direction

while 19% say Georgia is not changing at all. The poll showed that the public wishes to see the Georgian Parliament focused on the economy, healthcare, and education. Unfortunately, more than half of the population (55 percent) does not believe Parliament is passing legislation on issues that matter to people.

The results reflect data collected between July 13-25 through nationwide mobile phone interviews (excluding occupied territories) with 2,016 respondents. The survey was carried out with the financial assistance of UK Aid.

Gov't adopts additional restrictions as the Covid-19 cases increase in Georgia

OVER 6000 PEOPLE HAVE DIED FROM COVID-19 IN THE COUNTRY



► The Coordination Council decided to close public transportation from August 14 to September 4

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Amid the increased Covid-19 confirmed cases in the country, the government of Georgia announced the adoption of additional restrictions in the country. Starting from August 14, the public transportation will be closed down.

The government of Georgia announced the new regulations yesterday, August 12. The new restrictions adopted by the government of the country will last until September 4. According to the new regulations, in addition to the public transport limitation, festivals, sports events, as well as other mass events are prohibited. In addition, restaurants and other food facilities will only be able to work until 23:00.

Also, it was announced that

brigades composed of military doctors will be involved in the vaccination process. Also, in parallel with the restriction of public transport, the state will ensure regular transportation of the population to the main vaccination facilities.

Amiran Gamkrelidze, head of the National Center for Disease Control called on the public to go to the vaccination checkpoints directly to get the coronavirus vaccine without registering on the online platform.

The talks about additional

restrictions for unvaccinated people are already in progress. It was announced yesterday that the government and Coordinating Council will talk about adopting the restrictions about unvaccinated people starting this fall. The restrictions might also include access to food establishments, spas, gyms, and many other facilities.

Paata Imnadze, Deputy Head of the National Center for Disease Control, made some predictions about the estimated death toll from coronavirus in the country. He spoke about it after the meeting of the Coordination Council and the announcement of new restrictions. "For every 1000 people infected with the virus, we might have 10-13 dead," said Imnadze.

According to him, until at least half of the population is

vaccinated, other methods will be needed to manage the situation.

For the past week, there have been over 5000 cases reported almost every day in the country. The number of people dying of the virus is also increasing. For the past few days, the number of people dying because of coronavirus has been around 50 days.

In particular, yesterday, 5128 cases were reported in the country, and 49 people died. The number of coronavirus-infected people and the death rate have risen sharply in Georgia since the end of July. During the fourth wave of the epidemic, most of those infected have a more contagious and severe Delta variant of the coronavirus.



► People can now get vaccinated without being registered on the website

NEWS IN BRIEF

PREPARED BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

Restaurants, spas and gyms to toughen regulations for guests in September

From September, access to restaurants, spas, fitness centers and similar establishments may be subject to certain regulations.

In particular, according to Giorgi Ghibradze, Chief of the Operational Staff at the Interagency Coordination Council, the Council should discuss the recommendation of the National Center for Disease Control.

According to the recommendation, persons should be admitted to these facilities on the basis of a single vaccine or a full course of vaccine, a negative antigen test performed in the last 72 hours, or a rapid antigen test performed in the last 24 hours.

Elene Khoshtaria presents her political party Droa

Elene Khoshtaria, the candidate for the Tbilisi Sakrebulo chairmanship, presented the party Droa and introduced the new members of the team.

Among the members of Droa are diplomats Batu Kutelia and Davit Sikharulidze, as well as former MP Nino Goguaдзе.

"Our party is not a group united around one person; it is a unity of unanimous, free, principled people around an idea. The changes we are fighting for, which are vital to our country, are created by such free, principled, clean, loyal, competent people," Khoshtaria stated.

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|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| FRIDAY | | AUGUST 13 |
| Day | | Clouds High: 36°C |
| Night | | A few clouds Low: 22°C |
| SATURDAY | | AUGUST 14 |
| Day | | sunny High: 36°C |
| Night | | Partly cloudy Low: 22°C |

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