

Facemasks mandatory in closed and open spaces

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

Issuance of vaccination cards has started in the houses of justice and public centers from August 16. Until now, Covid cards were issued only in medical institutions where citizens were vaccinated.

Information on complete or partial vaccination and recent PCR examination on the card, as well as the unique QR code of the vaccine and personal data are recorded and certified with the stamp of the House of Justice.

The card will be issued for free on the basis of an ID card upon submission of the application, without prior reservation.

"If a citizen needs a card register to be presented abroad with an apostille/legalization certificate, they will be able to receive this service on the spot, in houses of justice and community centers," the Ministry of Justice said in a statement.

Georgia is working to get information about vaccinated citizens into the international database.

"The state is already working with the EU to bring the information about vaccinated people to the international database soon, which will make it easier for citizens to travel, both in terms of business and tourism," the statement said.

The overall epidemiological situation is critical throughout the country. According to Amiran Gamkrelidze, head of the National Center for Disease Control, if the daily coronavirus infection rate does not fall below 4% before September 15, they will not be able to recommend the commencement of the studies in the building of the educational institution.



According to the decision of the Coordinating Council, from now on, wearing a facemask in open and closed spaces becomes mandatory again.

"We expect that the restrictions we have just introduced - the intensification of vaccinations - should seriously reduce the number of new cases in the country, and if the positive rate drops below 4% (we now have 10%), then there will be a question of resumption of education," he said.

Starting August 17, it is still mandatory in Georgia to wear facemasks in the open spaces as well as closed ones. The decision made by the Interagency Coordination Council was announced by the Minister of Health Ekaterine Tikaradze.

In the last 24 hours, 6208 cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in Georgia,

the highest daily rate during an almost 2-year epidemic. According to the NCDC, 47,872 tests were performed in the past 24 hours.

Tikaradze stated that the majority, 95% of these 7000 covid patients admitted to the clinics have not received any dose of vaccines. According to the Minister, 2.85% of those admitted to the clinic were vaccinated with one dose, and 2.13% - with two doses.

According to official information, as of August 17, 831,815 people have been vaccinated in Georgia. There are more than 52,000 active cases.

47 patients with COVID-19 have died in the last 24 hours, whilst the number of recoveries increased by 3539.

Georgia is currently experiencing the worst wave of the coronavirus epidemic. The death rate and infection rate have increased dramatically compared to the previous waves. At least 90% of patients have a more contagious and complex delta strain.



Rati Bregadze and Ekaterine Tikaradze jointly observed the process of issuing the covid card. The document can be obtained in almost all branches of Justice Hall throughout Georgia.

News in Brief

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 3.1191; Euro - 3.6715; GBP - 4.3031; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.2464; Swiss Franc - 3.4231

PREPARED BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

Irakli Gharibashvili: Georgia has the potential to become the Luxembourg of the East

"I know that last year was quite difficult for Batumi and the people of Batumi, because we know that this city is not only a cultural, economic, and tourist center. Of course, this city also had a hard time last year, because there was a pandemic. I would like to tell a few words to our population in Batumi. This year we have practically managed to take care of all the citizens and control the situation on the one hand, but on the other hand, the only solution is vaccination. In this regard, we have an absolutely secure situation, which means that we have available all the vaccines that are considered the best in the world.

Therefore, friends, we want, on the one hand, economic development and prosperity of our citizens, and on the other hand - the end of the pandemic. We will end the pandemic if we expand vaccination as much as possible and all citizens will be vaccinated, of course, voluntarily. Therefore, this is an extremely important issue that we should all consider together."

Gonio should become the new financial center. Georgia has the potential to become the Luxembourg of the East. This is an ambitious plan and vision that we must all implement together. For this we need a stable environment. We need a predictable environment that is extremely important to everyone, to each of our citizens, to investors, to tourists, and to all the citizens living on this land. I believe that together we will definitely win and we will continue to advance and develop our country," stated the PM.



Gakharia: I have no discomfort if anyone is watching me, I am absolutely free



"I have no discomfort if anyone is watching me, I am absolutely free," Giorgi Gakharia, chairman of the For Georgia party, told reporters. Thus he responded to the statement made by Kakhaber Kemoklidze, who said that there was "special mobilization of law enforcement agencies

I do not have any discomfort if someone is watching me. I am absolutely free. It is just unfortunate that state resources are wasted on this. I know people who give such assignments and people who receive such assignments. This creates inconvenience for them. The main challenge is that state resources are wasted, when the country has a lot of challenges - pandemics, fighting against crime, etc.

I am not embarrassed. I have always had the opportunity to admit if something was wrong. There were similar cases and we tried to react. However, the difference is that it has now become systemic," stated Gakharia.

Elene Khoshtaria: We are offering a very important, historic decision - a coalition government

"I welcome the decision of the United National Movement to show us an example - I do not want everything for me, we want changes and there is a place for absolutely all parties in these changes.

We have to go to the referendum in October and say that we do not want to continue like this. To have a choice not between bad and worse, but between bad and

better in this referendum, we offer a very important, historic decision - a coalition government. Our majoritarians are the first most obvious sign of this coalition government. Once again, I applaud the decision of the United National Movement - the largest opposition party - who set an example not hypothetically when we come to power, but today - I do not want everything for me, we want changes and there is a place for absolutely all parties in these changes. We are united in this fight, on the other hand and we offer diversity, on the other hand," said Droa's leader Elene Khoshtaria.



Weather

Wednesday, August 18

Day ☀️ Clear High: 33°C

Night 🌙 Clear Low: 20°C

Thursday, August 19

Day ☁️ Partly Cloudy High: 33°C

Night 🌧️ Mostly Cloudy Low: 20°C

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