



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Election Department – General Election to Kerala Legislative Assembly 2021-Counting of votes on 02.05.2021. Implementation of Covid Protocol at Counting Centres/Halls – State Action Plan – Formulated - Orders issued.

ELECTION (EQUIPMENT) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.261/2021/Elec.

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram. 30.04.2021

- Read: 1) Document No. 324.6.EPS.OT.001.2020 issued by Election Commission of India.
- 2) G.O(Rt)No. 85/2021/Elec. Dated 11.02.2021
- 3) G.O(Rt)No. 383/2021/DMD dated 20.04.2021
- 4) Letter No.464/INST/2021/EPS dated 27.04.2021 and 28.04.2021 from Election Commission of India.

ORDER

In view of the Covid -19 Pandemic, as per instructions of Election Commission of India in document read as 1st paper above, detailed guidelines were issued vide Government Order read as 2nd paper above for the conduct of safe Kerala Legislative Assembly Election 2021.

2. In view of the surge in Covid-19 cases throughout Kerala, and taking into consideration of the directions issued vide Government Order read as 3rd paper above and directions from Election Commission of India as per letter read as 4th paper above, the following action plan is formulated for strict compliance for the safe conduct of counting of Kerala Legislative Assembly Election 2021 on 2nd May 2021.

- (1) District Election Officer will be the Nodal Officer at each Counting Centre to ensure adherence to the Covid-19 related norms at Counting Centres, with assistance of Nodal Health Officer.

- (2) Compliance Certificate in respect of Counting Centre that all arrangement has been made as per extant COVID guidelines shall be obtained from the concerned Health Authorities. **[Action: Returning Officer and District Medical Officer]**
- (3) No candidates/Agents will be allowed inside the counting hall without undergoing RT-PCR/RAT test or without having 2 doses of vaccination against Covid-19 and will have to produce Negative RT-PCR report or RAT report or Vaccination reports within 48 hours of start of counting. Principal Secretary (Health) shall make arrangement for RT-PCR/RAT test to Candidates/Counting Agents before the day of Counting. List of Counting Agents shall be made available by the contesting candidates to the Returning Officer concerned by 1700 hours on the day three days prior to the date fixed for counting of votes. **[Action: Principal Secretary (Health) and Returning Officer]**.
- (4) No Public gathering outside the counting venue shall be allowed during the process of counting. **[Action: State Police Chief and Returning Officer]**.
- (5) The Counting Hall should be sufficiently big to maintain Social Distancing, and should have proper ventilation, windows, exhaust fan etc. as per available protocol of State Disaster Management Authority. **[Action: Returning Officer]**.
- (6) The counting centers shall be disinfected before, during and after the counting. **[Action: Returning Officer/District Medical Officer]**.
- (7) Sealed outer boxes of EVM/VVPAT shall also be sanitized/disinfected. **[Action: Returning Officer]**.
- (8) Counting of votes of a constituency shall be considered at 3-4 halls by appointing additional Assistant Returning Officers. **[Action: District Election Officer and Returning Officer]**.
- (9) At the entry of hall/room/premises-
 - a, Thermal Scanning of all persons shall be carried out;
 - b. Sanitizer, soap and water shall be made available and every person entering in hall shall sanitize his/her hand. **[Action: Returning Officer]**.