



ELECTION 2020

Call:
1-888-API-VOTE
(274-8683)

Bilingual assistance is available in English, Mandarin (普通话/普通话),
Cantonese (廣東話/广东话), Korean (한국어), Vietnamese (Tiếng Việt),
Tagalog, Urdu (اردو), Hindi (हिन्दी), and Bengali (বাংলা).



COVID-19 Considerations for Election Officials for Safe Polling Locations & Ensuring Language Access

(based on CDC Guidance: Considerations for Election Polling Locations and Voters @
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/election-polling-locations.html>)

For partners working with elections officials in preparation for the November election, here are recommendations for election officials about how best to engage safely with voters who vote in person during early voting and on Election Day.

Poll Workers

- **Stay home when sick or after recent close contact with a person with COVID-19**
 - Educate poll workers about when they should stay home and when they can return to work.
 - Poll workers who are sick, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home.
 - Ensure that polling locations are adequately staffed to cover any sick workers who need to stay home.
 - For Section 203-covered jurisdictions, ensure that polling locations are adequately staffed with bilingual poll workers to cover any sick workers who need to stay home.

Polling Site

- **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**
 - Provide an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for use at each step in the voting process where voters interact with poll workers, after using the voting machine, and as the final step in the voting process. Place alcohol-based hand sanitizer in visible, frequently used locations such as registration desks, where “I Voted” stickers are dispensed, and exits. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers may not be compatible with electronic voting equipment and may damage paper ballots. Poll workers and voters should ensure their hands are completely dry before handling these items.
 - Encourage poll workers to wash their hands frequently (e.g., before entering the polling location, before and after breaks or shifts, after touching or handling masks or PPE, after using the restroom, after touching shared surfaces or objects) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - Encourage workers and voters to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- **Masks**
 - Recommend and reinforce the use of masks among all workers. Information should be provided to workers on proper use, removal, and washing of masks.
 - Encourage voters to use masks while in the polling location.
 - In jurisdictions where voters’ masks may need to be removed to support identification procedures, alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be provided at the station so voters can sanitize their hands after removing their masks. A plastic barrier between the voter and the poll worker can provide additional protection.
 - Post signs providing instruction on proper removal and handling of masks.

- In Section 203-covered jurisdictions, translated signs providing instruction on proper removal and handling of masks must also be posted.
- Masks can make it more difficult for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing to lip-read, hear, or understand what people are saying. Communication can be supported with written communication, posting information/instructions, and decreasing background noise. Lip reading can be supported with clear masks, face shields, or plexiglass barriers. Consistent with applicable law, election officials should consider having supplies, such as clear face coverings available, to ensure that voting is accessible to people with disabilities.
- **Adequate Supplies**
 - Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors. Supplies include soap, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (placed at every station, if supplies allow), paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, and no-touch trash cans.
- **Signs and Messages**
 - Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., at entrances, in restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a mask.
 - Include messages about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 when communicating with voters (such as on websites, in videos, in emails, and on social media accounts).
 - To the extent consistent with applicable law, ensure that any signage and messages are accessible to voters with disabilities, for example by providing large print or braille versions or having audible messages with the same information.
 - In Section 203-covered jurisdictions and those that require voting materials in languages other than English through state or local law, signs and messages should also be provided in the covered languages as there will be many voters who do not understand English very well.
- **Social Distancing**
 - Remind voters upon arrival to leave space between themselves and others. Encourage voters to stay at least 6 feet apart. Polling places may provide signs, or other visual cues such as floor markings, decals, or chalk marks to help voters and workers remember this.
 - In Section 203-covered jurisdictions, signs must also be provided in-language.
 - Have plans to manage lines to ensure social distancing can be maintained.
 - Clearly mark points of entry and exit to avoid bottlenecks.
 - Discourage voters and workers from greeting others with physical contact (e.g., handshakes). Include this reminder on signs about social distancing.
 - In Section 203-covered jurisdictions, signs must also be provided in-language.

Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/election-polling-locations.html> for information about what election officials can do to maintain safety of polling locations and how they can modify their operations to ensure public health and safety.

If you have any questions about voting, no matter how big or small,

call us at [1-888-API-VOTE \(1-888-274-8683\)](tel:1-888-API-VOTE) for help in

English, Mandarin (普通話), Cantonese (廣東話), Korean (한국어), Vietnamese (tiếng Việt), Tagalog, Urdu (اردو), Hindi (हिंदी), and Bengali/Bangla (বাংলা). We are available to provide assistance leading up to, on, and after Election Day.