

## General guidelines

Candidates, campaigners, electors and NTEC staff

This document has been produced in consultation with the NT Department of Health (DOH) and is subject to change.

## Purpose

The NT Legislative Assembly Election (2020 Territory Election) is scheduled for Saturday, 22 August 2020. The election is required to be conducted in a way that aligns with the key principles of COVID-19 risk management, developed by DOH.

The guidelines in this document have been developed to decrease the risk of the spread of COVID-19 associated with election activities.

The guidelines apply to candidates, campaigners, electors and NTEC staff.

## Principles

These are general principles that apply to all Territorians. The NTEC will use the guiding principles to assist in the delivery of the 2020 Territory Election.

### Physical distancing

- A minimum space of 1.5 metres between people who are not from the same household.
- If there is a requirement to be facing another person less than 1.5 metres away, minimise contact to less than 15 minutes.

### Hygiene

- Avoid touching your face and cough or sneeze into a tissue or into your elbow.
- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before and after any contact with surfaces that are used by more than one person.
- Regularly clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched by more than one person – e.g. phones, door handles, benches, equipment.
- Avoid sharing implements e.g. cups or objects that you touch.

People should not attend a voting centre or campaign if they are unwell.

## Guidelines

The following guidelines have been developed to ensure the 2020 Territory Election complies with the guiding principles outlined above. The following changes to usual electoral activity are required to assist reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

### Physical distancing

- Encourage social distancing, including wherever possible encouraging the distance between people to at least 1.5 metres, as far as reasonably practicable.
- Encourage postal voting, including for vulnerable electors, so they are not required to attend a voting centre.
- Encourage electors to vote early. Social distancing restrictions are more likely to be complied with at early voting centres due to the smaller number of electors, and more early voting will reduce the number of people needing to vote on election day.
- When using inside spaces for voting and counting, aim to have four square metres for each person.
- Monitor the number of people inside indoor voting and counting centres to ensure there is compliance with social distancing principles. This includes ensuring all people and voting booths are at least 1.5 metres apart.
- Ensure only one voter uses a voting screen at a time, except when an elector needs assistance to vote.

### Hygiene

- People should not attend a voting or counting centre if experiencing even mild symptoms of illness. Voting is compulsory. However, if voters are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 they are instructed to not attend a voting centre.
- Documented hygiene and cleaning protocols is to be followed at all voting and counting centres.
- Have alcohol hand sanitiser available for voting centre staff and voters.
- Practice personal hygiene.
- Voters will be provided a new pencil when they are issued with their ballot paper to ensure pencils are not shared with others.