

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
National Elections Commission

Guidelines on measures to prevent the spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) during the conduct of the 2014 Special Senatorial Election.

Authority

The National Elections Commission, pursuant to the power and authority granted it under Chapter 2, Section 9 (h & u) of the New Elections Law of 1986, hereby promulgates these Guidelines.

Statement of Purpose

WHEREAS, Article 89 of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia established the National Elections Commission as an autonomous public Commission;

WHEREAS, Chapter 2, Section 9 (h & u) of the 1986 New Elections Law of 1986 empowers the National Elections Commission to formulate and enforce electoral guidelines;

WHEREAS, the National Elections Commission is aware of the danger posed by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), especially its different modes of transmission, and the Commission is further mindful of the degrees of interpersonal contacts associated with most electoral activities;

WHEREAS, the National Elections Commission recognizes its obligation to work in compliance with all health, safety, and transportation measures introduced by the Government of Liberia to reduce the spread of EVD during the Special Senatorial Elections;

NOW THEREFORE, consistent with its statutory mandate as mentioned herein, the National Elections Commission promulgates these Guidelines.

Section 1
Scope of Application

1. These Guidelines shall apply throughout the Republic of Liberia;
2. All laws of the Republic of Liberia, including the Public Health Law, health and transportation regulations, presidential edicts, and Ebola preventative measures put in place by the Government are incorporated herein.

Section 2
Town Hall Meetings, Political Rally, and other Campaign Activities

1. All Political Parties, Alliances, Coalitions, Independent Candidates and their supporters shall be required to provide Ebola Preventive Measures, such as hand washing corners and temperature monitoring equipment at all town hall meetings, political rallies, and other campaign activities. These Ebola prevention measures shall be instituted at the point of entry/commencement of such campaign gatherings. Any person with a temperature greater than 37.5C or 98.6F shall be excluded and the public health authority notified.
2. Every attendee to a town hall meeting, political rally, or other campaign activities is required to follow the Ebola prevention and sanitary measures, such as washing of hands, having his or her temperature tested, and observing and maintaining a non-contact distance of at least three (3) feet between and amongst attendees.
3. The National Elections Commission requires that all political rallies be held outdoor, utilizing indoor facilities when such is the only available option, as dictated by the circumstances. In such a case, all EVD measures must be adhered to.

Section 3
Mass transportation of People

1. In line with Regulation No. 002/2014 of the Ministry of Transport governing the transportation of people in mass; the transportation of people in mass by candidates, political parties, or their supporters for electoral purposes, including town hall meetings, political rallies, parades, voting, or other campaign activities is hereby prohibited.

Section 4
Medical Quarantine

1. In the event a polling center is placed under medical quarantine on or before December 16, 2014, the National Elections Commission shall suspend all electoral/voting activities in that center until the site is disinfected and medical quarantine is lifted by the Government.

Section 5
NEC's Civic Voters and
Gender Outreach Activities

Civic Education and Gender Outreach Activities constitute those portions of the Commission's larger voter education and public information programs. These activities most often include the organization and conduct of road shows, street theatres, and mass community meetings with voters. In line with national measures to prevent the spread of the Ebola Virus Disease, all community mass meetings to include all civic and voter education outreach activities shall have a maximum of one hundred and fifty to two hundred persons and shall:

- I. Start with hands-washing;
- II. Provide for maintaining a reasonable distance of at least three (3) feet between and amongst attendees, so as to control physical or bodily contacts;

- III. Ensure that participants meet normal temperature measure of 37.5C or 98.6F. Any person with a temperature greater than 37.5C or 98.6F shall be excluded and the public health authority notified.

Section 6

Pay Day for NEC's Poll Workers

This activity within the electoral calendar draws up the official payment schedules, periods, dates, venues, and conditions for release of honorarium to polling officials and other election workers. It is carried out in all counties as in the case of a national election, or within a specific constituency where applicable, leading to a gathering of more than five hundred persons across various county zones on Pay Day. The Commission mandates that all those turning out for elections payment after elections must adhere to the following EVD Preventive Measures:

- (i) Washing of hands before entering the payment centers;
- (ii) Observing and maintaining a reasonable distance of at least three (3) feet to control physical or body contact between and amongst individuals;
- (iii) Temperature monitoring of participants before entering. Any person, who temperature reads greater than 37.5C or 98.6F, shall be excluded and appropriate payment arrangement shall be made to pay such person at a future date.

Section 7

Recruitment, Testing, Evaluation

& Training of Temporary Staff

The Commission employs the services of various personnel on a temporary basis in the exercise of its mandate and the coordination of its operations

across Liberia. These services include the recruitment, testing, training, and evaluation of available individuals in very large numbers. The current strength of temporary personnel for the Special Senatorial Election is estimated at twenty-five thousand. Pursuant to the Ebola Control Measures, the Commission requires that all temporary staff participating in the recruitment, testing, training and evaluation activities must adhere to the following EVD preventive measures:

- (i) Disclosure of EVD contact history of participants
- (ii) Washing of hands before entering the main center for these activities;
- (iii) Observing and maintaining a reasonable distance of at least three (3) feet to control physical or body contact(s) between and amongst individuals;
- (iv) Temperature monitoring of every participating individual. Each person shall have his or her temperature tested, and any person who has a temperature greater than 37.5C or 98.6F shall be excluded and the public health authority notified.

Section 8

Deployment and Retrieval of

Electoral Materials and Personnel

Deployment and Retrieval of electoral materials and personnel is defined as the movement of electoral materials along with the respective personnel charged with the delivery and application of those materials to designated points of electoral service delivery. The Commission mandates that all such deployment and retrieval of personnel and materials be executed in strict observance of the following EVD preventive measures:

- (i) washing of hands, before entering vehicles;

- (ii) Every vehicle must have a maximum of five persons of which two persons including the driver shall be in the front with three in the back.
- (iii) Temperature monitoring of individuals before boarding the vehicle. Each person shall have his or her temperature tested, and any person who has a temperature greater than 37.5C or 98.6F shall be isolated and transported separately and the public health authority notified.

Section 9

Tally, Tabulation, or Collation of Election Result

Result(s) from the electoral process involves tallying, tabulating, and collating of data from voting precincts across the country. This process requires mass representation of political parties, observers and media personals. In line with this characteristic of mass meeting during tally, tabulation, or collation of Election Results, the Commission mandates strict observance of the following EVD preventive measures:

- (I) Washing of hands before entering the venue or hall selected for said activities;
- (II) The maintenance of a reasonable distance of at least three (3) feet to control physical or body contact(s) between and amongst individuals;
- (III) Temperature monitoring of everyone accessing such facility. Each person shall have his or her temperature tested, and any person who has a temperature greater than 37.5C or 98.6F shall be excluded and the public health authority notified.

Section 10

Certification of Winners

Certification of winner(s) is a basic tradition which ensures the closure of an electoral process. It is a mass gathering of all stakeholders, partners and winners from the election. The Commission requires:

- (i) That a winner comes with only one (1) guest to the official certification ceremony;
- (ii) That all other persons attending shall observe EVD preventive measures, involving washing of hands, before entering the venue or hall selected for said activity;
- (iii) That all persons observe and maintain a reasonable distance of at three (3) feet to control physical or body contact(s) between and amongst individuals;
- (iv) That each person shall have his or her temperature tested, and any person who has a temperature greater than 37.5C or 98.6F shall be excluded and the public health authority notified.

Section 11

Press Conferences and/Media briefings,

Political Parties and Stakeholders

Press conferences and media briefings are held to facilitate official communication of the policies and other administrative positions of the Commission to the wider public. This activity brings together mass representation of media houses, political parties, civil society organizations and others institutions. In line with measures to prevent the spread of Ebola, the Commission has set in place the following preventive measures:

- (i) That all persons attending said activity observe washing of hands before entering the venue or hall;
- (ii) Observe and maintain a reasonable distance of atleast three (3) feet to control physical or body contact(s) between and amongst individuals;
- (iii) That each person shall have his or her temperature tested, and any person who has a temperature greater than 37.5C or 98.6F shall be excluded and the public health authority notified.

Section 12

Persons with Temperature above 37.6C or 98.6F and Visibly Sick Voter(s) or Election Official

A visibly sick person is anyone who at a voting precinct on election day shows any of the publicized signs and symptoms of the Ebola Virus Disease. Should there be such visibly sick person during the Polling and Counting, election officials at such center shall immediately isolate such individual and contact the County Ebola Incident Management Team immediately.

A voter presenting with temperature above 37.5C or 98.6F but with no visible signs of EVD should be allowed an additional temperature check at an interval of thirty minutes from the last check. If increase temperature persists, the county IMT should be notified immediately.

Section 13

Management and Control of Queues

Management of voting queues is the activity of setting up voting lines, coordinating voters in an orderly manner which provides easy access to voters. It can also be a means of physical or bodily contacts between and

amongst people. In line with measures to prevent the spread of Ebola, the Commission shall ensure that:

- (i) The Queues controllers are well trained, instructed and coordinated in the formation of queues;
- (ii) Distance between two(2) queues is four(4) feet;
- (iii) Voters standing in the same queue are three (3) feet apart from each other. The three feet is determined by the measurement of the arm lifted without touching the person in the front. The space is marked with a white paint to determine the actual space.

Section 14

Handling of Voting Cards and the Perforation Process

The handling of voting cards is an activity wherein a designated polling official receives the voting card of a voter, and uses the card to cross check the particulars of the same voter in the Registration Roll in order to authenticate truthful personal appearance of the person to the voting precinct. In the wake of the Ebola situation, the following measures have been adapted to avoid direct contact between an election staff and a voter thru cross-handling of voting cards:

- (i) Voters shall be instructed to display their voting cards to the voter ID staff;
- (ii) Voters shall extend their own cards presenting it for punching without physical contact;

Section 15

Thumbprint Voting

The use of thumb print to vote has been one of standard ways of marking the ballot wherein a voter uses a finger as opposed to the use of a pen or pencil. Voters opting for thump print shall be directed to follow the below steps:

The Inker shall give to the voter one (1) cotton bud;

- (i) The Inker shall instruct the voter to stain or dampen one (1) tip of the bud on an ink pad;
- (ii) The Inker shall instruct the voter how to ink the thumb with the cotton bud before marking the ballot;
- (iii) The Inker shall instruct the voter to carry the inked cotton bud behind the screen, and place it far away from his or her ballot;
- (iv) After marking the ballot, the voter will collect a piece of tissue paper to clean his or her finger.

Section 16

Applying Electoral Stain (Indelible Ink)

Applying electoral stain is the process of marking the finger of a voter as a security measure to avoid multiple voting. It is done thru the application of indelible ink. Voters will be requested to ink their own fingers using cotton buds provided by the polling staff. Henceforth, the Commission regulates that direct dibbing of the fingers from the electoral stain bottle shall be suspended.

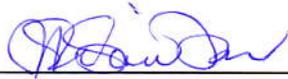
Section 17

Entry into Force

These Guidelines shall come into full force immediately upon publication.

DONE UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEAL OF THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS
COMMISSION (NEC) THIS 25th DAY OF NOVEMBER, A.D. 2014

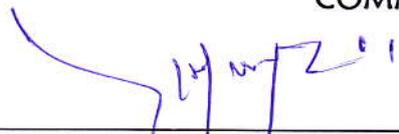
Hon. Davidetta Browne-Lansanah
COMMISSIONER



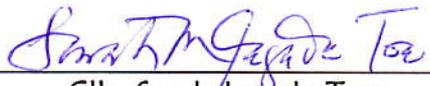
Cllr. Jeanette A. Ebba Davidson
COMMISSIONER



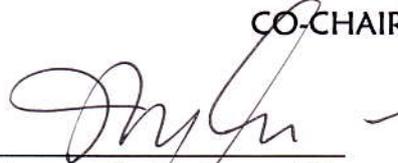
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