

## WEEKLY BULLETIN №1<sup>1</sup>

### COVID-19 Pandemic in Azerbaijan

#### Important facts and decisions for June 22-28, 2020

## 1. COVID-19: country statistics

June 28, 2020: 534 new cases of coronavirus infection were recorded in Azerbaijan, 307 people recovered, 5 died, the Operational Headquarters under the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan said.<sup>2</sup>

So far, 16,424 cases of COVID-19 infection have been identified. Of these, 9026 recovered, 198 - died, 7200 - are being treated in special treatment hospitals. A total of 468,967 tests for coronavirus were carried out, including 7106 over the last day.

## 2. Important decisions

June 23, 2020: Azerbaijan will pay a lump sum of AZN 190 (\$111.7) for citizens in Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja, Lankaran, Absheron, Yevlakh, Jalilabad and Masalli regions where a two-week coronavirus quarantine regime has been imposed. The Cabinet of Ministers adopted a relevant decision on June 23.<sup>3</sup> The payment is meant for those who lost their jobs due to special quarantine regime.

June 25, 2020: Number of employees, who have been involved in working in several sectors, of which activity is allowed, should not be more than 50%. It has been noted in the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers.<sup>4</sup> The number of permits issued to those working under civil law contracts shall not exceed 30% of the total number of people working under employment contracts.

## 3. To the attention of entrepreneurs

June 24, 2020: Public financial support for entrepreneurs affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.<sup>5</sup> As of June 23, a total of 145,740 taxpayers applied to the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan for financial support, including 28,709 taxpayers affected by the coronavirus pandemic for the payment of a certain part of the salary to employees and 117,031 private (micro) entrepreneurs.

As part of the payment of part of salaries to employees, applications from 24,492 entrepreneurs covering 210,152 employees have been reviewed and approved.

To date, the volume of financial support on the approved appeals amounted to AZN 96.28 million (\$56.63M), of which the funds envisaged for payment on the second stage amounted to AZN 48.14

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<sup>1</sup> The bulletin is prepared within the framework of the USAID-supported Micro Enterprise Support Project.

<sup>2</sup> [https://koronavirusinfo.az/files/2/tab\\_28.06.2020.pdf](https://koronavirusinfo.az/files/2/tab_28.06.2020.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://cabmin.gov.az/az/document/4526/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://cabmin.gov.az/az/document/4532/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.economy.gov.az/article/koronavirus-covi-d-19-pandemiyasindan-zerer-chekmish-sahibkarlara-dovlet-maliyye-desteyinin-gosterilmesi-davam-etdirilir6/31014>

million (\$28,31M). The State Treasury Agency of the Ministry of Finance has ensured payment of AZN 92.54 million (\$54,43M) for the salary of 205,137 employees of 24,017 taxpayers. As part of the program to provide financial support to private (micro) entrepreneurs, 117,031 taxpayers' requests were received, out of which 109,283 were examined and approved.

The volume of financial support on the approved appeals is AZN 62.91 million (\$37.01M).

State Treasury Agency of the Ministry of Finance ensured transfer of AZN 62.68 million (\$36.87M) to the bank accounts of 105,052 private (micro) entrepreneurs.

It should be noted that the results of applications under the financial support program and notifications on transfer of funds to bank accounts are sent to electronic offices of taxpayers in the Internet tax inspection ([www.e-taxes.gov.az](http://www.e-taxes.gov.az)) and mobile phones in the form of SMS. In case of any questions, people can contact the call center "195" of the State Tax Service and the local tax authorities where they are registered.

June 25, 2020: Monitoring by the Ministry of Economy aimed at strengthening compliance with special quarantine regime, the necessary rules of social behavior and sanitary and epidemiological requirements, continues.<sup>6</sup> Overall, the cases of non-compliance with the rules of trade and necessary social behavior and sanitary-epidemiological requirements, were identified at 154 facilities out of 315 covered by the monitoring. During the monitoring, informative talks were held with entrepreneurs, was emphasized the need for full compliance with special quarantine rules and necessary rules of social behavior and sanitary-epidemiological requirements.

From May 22 to June 25, monitoring was carried out in a total of 8170 business entities, of which violations were detected at 3576 facilities.

June 25, 2020: With the support of the Agency for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), the Azerbaijan-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIAF) will hold an online conference on the topic "Post-pandemic: Support for the restoration of the activities of SMEs" on June 30 - July 2.<sup>7</sup> The purpose of the event is to support enterprises affected by the pandemic by informing entrepreneurs about various strategies and mechanisms.

To register for the workshops please follow the link - <https://forms.gle/9TgEeOkJWQ7u3m9j7>

The registration form contains topics and workshops for every day. Those who are interested can participate by noting the relevant workshop. Participation in the online conference is free of charge. Only registered persons will receive a link to participate in the conference. The deadline for registration is June 28, 2020.

*Baku, June 29, 2020*

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.economy.gov.az/article/i-qtisadiyyat-nazirliyi-sahibkarliq-subyektlerinde-monitoringleri-davam-etdirir/31016>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.economy.gov.az/article/post-pandemiya-kob-larin-fealiyyetinin-berpasina-destek-movzusunda-onlayn-konfrans-kechirilecek/31010>