

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE OF BISHKEK

ORDER

March 31, 2020

Bishkek

No. 17

**On the procedure for public access to information and dissemination of information,
taking into account the current crisis**

In order to ensure the constitutional rights of citizens to receiving information and pursuant to paragraph 10 of the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 55 as of March 24, 2020, and in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Regulation on the commandant's office of the city of Bishkek, in the territory of which a state of emergency was declared, approved by the aforementioned Decree, I order:

1. To approve the procedure for public access to information and dissemination of information, taking into account the current crisis according to Annex.
2. To organize the online platform for mass media and Internet publishers in the press center of the Operational Command Center to control the spread of coronavirus infection and eliminate its consequences in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Commandant

Orozaliev A.

On the procedure for public access to information and dissemination of information, taking into account the current crisis

1. General provisions

- 1.1. This Regulation "On the procedure for public access to information and dissemination of information, taking into account the current crisis" (the "Regulation") regulates the procedure for the Bishkek Commandant's Office's interaction with mass media and internet publishers during the state of emergency.
- 1.2. The purpose of this Regulation is to ensure the right of citizens to receive official and reliable information.
- 1.3. This Regulation is developed in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, constitutional law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the state of emergency" and other normative legal acts of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as the orders and decrees of the commandant.

2. The procedure of the Bishkek Commandant's Office's interaction with mass media and internet publishers

- 2.1. In order to avoid the escalation of the current situation, the mass media will disseminate information provided by the commandant during the state of emergency.
- 2.2. Informing the population about the current situation in Bishkek will be carried out daily in the form of a briefing or press conference with the participation of the commandant and relevant officials as necessary.
- 2.3. Briefings or press conferences of the commandant or the Minister of Internal Affairs will be held daily at 9.00 in the press center of the Operational Command Center for controlling the spread of coronavirus infection and eliminating its consequences in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- 2.4. The information department of the commandant's office will receive all questions from representatives of mass media and Internet publishers in the online format (by whatsapp _____ or by calling the "media hotline"). The answers to the questions will be voiced at briefings or press conferences.
- 2.5. Mass media and Internet publishers that have expressed a desire to take part in covering the activities of the commandant's office must publish only reliable information and disseminate information with a mandatory reference to briefings or press conferences of the commandant's office.
- 2.6. Representatives of foreign media participating in the information coverage of the current situation in the city of Bishkek must act on the same grounds as representatives of local media in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation.

3. Liability of mass media and Internet publishers

3.1. Mass media, Internet publishers and/or their representatives during the state of emergency must operate in accordance with the constitutional law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the state of emergency" and will be liable for the accuracy of messages and materials prepared and disseminated by them.

3.2. Mass media, Internet publishers and/or their representatives must:

- comply with generally recognized standards of journalistic ethics;
- not abuse freedom of the media;
- objectively inform readers, viewers and radio listeners about the work of the commandant's office;
- not allow publications based on deliberately false information and damaging the honor, dignity or business reputation of representatives of the commandant's office.

Mass media and Internet publishers that allowed such publications, at the request of the commandant's office, must publish a refutation or give an explanation of an article or speech that is not true or distorts the truth, in accordance with the effective legislation.