

GE2020: Campaign dos and don'ts

Political parties and candidates are expected to ramp up campaigning activities after Nomination Day on June 30, in the run-up to Polling Day on July 10. The authorities have issued guidelines for candidates as well as members of the public on safe distancing during the campaign. Here are some key things to bear in mind.



Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat and PAP executive director Alex Yam greeting a resident last Thursday.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

All safe distancing rules under phase two of the Covid-19 reopening measures will remain in place. These include wearing a face mask when outside the home, unless eating, drinking or taking part in strenuous exercise. A safe distance of 1m must be maintained at all times.



Practise safe distancing

- Groups on walkabouts and door-to-door visits must not consist of more than five people.
- There must be a safe distance of at least 1m between groups.
- No one must sit on fixed seats in public places marked to indicate that they cannot be occupied.



When encountering candidates on their walkabouts

- Maintain a 1m safe distance, such as when talking to candidates or queueing up to take political campaigning items such as fliers.
- Avoid physical contact with candidates and their supporters. For instance, do not shake hands or greet people such that there is physical contact like fist bumps and "high fives".
- Keep face mask on when interacting with candidates.
- Do not follow or crowd around candidates and accompanying supporters.
- If taking photographs with candidates, maintain a safe distance of 1m, and wear a mask.



Meeting candidates on door-to-door visits

- Keep a safe distance of at least 1m when interacting with candidates at the doorstep of your home, and wear a mask.
- Avoid physical contact, such as shaking hands, fist bumps or "high fives".
- If candidates and supporters are invited in, there must be a total of only five guests in the home. Everyone should be wearing a face mask.



Avoid crowds

- Watch party political broadcasts, constituency political broadcasts and online rallies at home, and avoid gathering at places where e-rallies are live-streamed.
- Avoid gathering or loitering near nomination centres on Nomination Day.



Workers' Party chief Pritam Singh interacting with residents during a party outreach yesterday.

CANDIDATES

Political parties and candidates can conduct walkabouts and door-to-door campaigning during the election period. However, they need to be socially responsible, follow safe management measures and prevailing public health advisories and rules during their campaign activities.



Interactions with members of the public

- Keep a safe distance of at least 1m.
- Best to keep it short.
- Avoid physical contact with people, such as shaking hands or fist bumps and "high fives".
- Remind people about safe distancing measures, for instance, when a crowd forms around the candidates. If people do not comply, candidates should leave the area.
- When distributing campaign materials such as fliers, keep interactions short and ensure there is no crowding. Adhere to safe distancing rules if a queue forms or if there is a table set up for people to collect campaign materials.



Face masks

- Masks must be worn at all times, and they must cover the nose and mouth fully, except when you are eating or drinking.
- When not wearing a mask, talking must be minimised, to reduce the risk of droplet spread.
- Masks cannot be removed if it is just for taking photos or talking.
- Candidates are encouraged to keep their masks on when speaking to the press. Masks can be taken off for a short period if candidates are recording for TV, for instance, but safe distancing rules must be followed.
- Those standing near the speaking candidate must also keep their masks on.
- Candidates can remove masks for interviews, press conferences or self-recordings in places where access and movement of people are limited, and safe management measures are in place.
- Candidates are advised to carry spare masks. Misplacing or forgetting one is not a reasonable excuse for not wearing a mask in public.



Entering premises

- When entering places such as malls, retail, food and beverage outlets or facilities for live-streaming e-rallies, candidates must comply with safe management measures such as temperature taking and checking in with SafeEntry.
- Candidates must also comply with conditions of the premises, such as those regarding the distribution of fliers.



Heeding official advice

- Political parties and candidates must follow any advice given by safe distancing ambassadors and safe distancing enforcement officers.
- They should also exercise positive leadership and set a good example during their walkabouts and door-to-door visits by following all rules and bearing in mind all guidelines. Safe distancing ambassadors and safe distancing enforcement officers will continue on their rounds to ensure safety, and everyone should cooperate and listen to them.