

## **Governments of Central Asia Respond to COVID-19 Spread! - 19 March 2020**

Central Asian countries are ready to join efforts to fight against coronavirus. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have already agreed to collaborate at the highest level, coordinating activities of the governments. Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev discussed the situation on COVID-19 spread with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev by telephone on March 18th. The number of infected people in Uzbekistan has reached 15. Uzbek Health Ministry has reported four new cases of COVID-19 over the past 24 hours. Uzbek authorities announced that they will prosecute those who hide symptoms of the disease and intentionally expose other people to the deadly virus. Violators can face up to eight years in jail.