

The measures taken against the COVID-19 pandemic by the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality

The Covid-19 pandemic has taken hold of the whole world and it requires a very intense struggle to prevent the spread of the pandemic in our cities. In this context, we would like to share some of the important practices we have done in Ankara with you. With the emergence of the coronavirus, as the Metropolitan Municipality, its affiliates and municipal companies, we continue our work in harmony with all our staff, tools and equipment within the scope of the fight against the virus.

Since the World Health Organization declared the epidemic as a global pandemic, we started to take precautions against the epidemic in our city swiftly.

Within this scope;

- ❖ We established a Crisis Management Desk within the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality to collect the demands of citizens and to find solutions by forwarding them to the relevant units of the municipality.
- ❖ We have suspended all non-urgent tenders and investments. All of our facilities and economic resources were primarily allocated to combat the epidemic.
- ❖ We have decided not to receive any rental payments from the enterprises that are tenants in Municipal properties for 3 months.
- ❖ As the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, we have started to provide both financial aid and food package support for tradesmen who are in a difficult economic situation and lost their jobs due to the corona epidemic.
- ❖ Ankara Metropolitan Municipality made a call to philanthropists who wanted to donate to cover all market, grocery store and butcher debts of the needy people. We have cleared thousands of people's debts in this way.
- ❖ Ankara Metropolitan Municipality disinfects Ankara streets and squares with its own prototype modern disinfection equipment. Besides, disinfection is carried out periodically in all public transportation vehicles.

- ❖ We produce the masks through our means and distribute them to our staff and the public with free of charge. 14/21
- ❖ Since the beginning of online education, volunteers were encouraged to provide a new or second-hand laptop to the children in need.
- ❖ Hot meals are provided to citizens over 65, citizens staying in shelters and citizens under quarantine in the dormitories.
- ❖ We distributed food to stray animals in the parks. Due to the closure of many cafeterias and restaurants, we have started distributing dry food for street animals.
- ❖ A Psychological Support Line has been established to provide psychological counselling and support services to citizens within the scope of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- ❖ On-site water meter reading procedures have been temporarily suspended because they are considered to have negative effects on public health. An extra 20% discount will be made on water bills for all residential subscribers.
- ❖ We have established a website with the slogan of “Ankara One Heart” to enable our helpful citizens to reach those in need during this pandemic period. Thus, our philanthropic citizens supported the needy people in various ways such as providing cash and food aids, paying their water and transportation bills.
- ❖ I would also like to point out that only my colleagues in the municipality have contributed to this project by more than 250 thousand Euros. The campaign is still in progress and as of now the total aid provided by our citizens has exceeded over 4 million Euros.
- ❖ Within the scope of combating against Covid-19, we have established a platform called capitalsinitiative.org, emphasizing “Local Solutions for Global Problems” and asked more than 40 capital cities and our sister cities to share their measures and experiences.
- ❖ The Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, under its Crisis Management Center, has established a team in which each person that can speak different languages. The main ambition was to scan the international press, daily reports, and developments in other countries related to coronavirus, measures taken, vaccination and drug studies,

attitudes of countries towards the pandemic and changes in those attitudes, political approaches.

- ❖ The total number of iftar (fast-breaking meal) and sahur (meal before dawn during Ramadan) that was delivered, through the iftarver campaign, reached the number 500.000 in total.
- ❖ Even before the first coronavirus patient reported in Turkey, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality was the first institution started its disinfection work on February 26, 2020. Metropolitan Municipality conducts disinfection and hygiene studies against the risk of epidemics in EGO and Private Public Buses, Rail Systems, Family Living Centers, Youth Centers and AŞTI, where thousands of passengers travel every day.
- ❖ It has been decided that there will be no water cut for the citizens who are in debt of the water bill. Until the extraordinary period has passed in Ankara, 80 percent of the February bills of the water housing subscribers will be billed in April. It has been decided not to make temporary invoicing for student houses and workplace subscriptions.
- ❖ The license and line tender prices were postponed for 2 months in the private-public buses whose number of passengers decreased due to the epidemic.
- ❖ ASKI General Directorate started production of disinfectants within the scope of combating coronavirus. Litre of products sold for 60 TL per litre began to be manufactured at 0.83 TL
- ❖ Ankara Metropolitan Municipality started distributing hot meals three times a day to citizens in the risk group due to the coronavirus epidemic, those who lost their jobs, healthcare workers and those in need of help.
- ❖ Ankara Metropolitan Mayor Mansur YAVAŞ announced that a total of 9 million 204 thousand TL will be paid to support 570 tradesmen from the Municipality and its affiliated companies and to protect the rights of employees.
- ❖ While unemployed tailors started producing masks on behalf of the Municipality, the transporters who were deprived of their income were also included in the Municipality's food package fleet. In this way, both the revenues and the needs of the Metropolitan Municipality were provided.

- ❖ Student dormitories were rented for Bilkent City Hospital, Hacettepe and İbn-i Sina Hospital healthcare professionals.
- ❖ Ankara Metropolitan Mayor Mansur YAVAŞ announced that free masks will be distributed. Distributions continue in areas such as municipal police teams, EGO buses, metro and market places.
- ❖ Ankara Metropolitan Municipality decided to clean Metro and ANKARAY wagons after each journey with special disinfectant products produced by ASKİ.
- ❖ Ankara Metropolitan Municipality announced that the burials were continuing, but all the cemeteries were temporarily closed except for the funeral relatives.