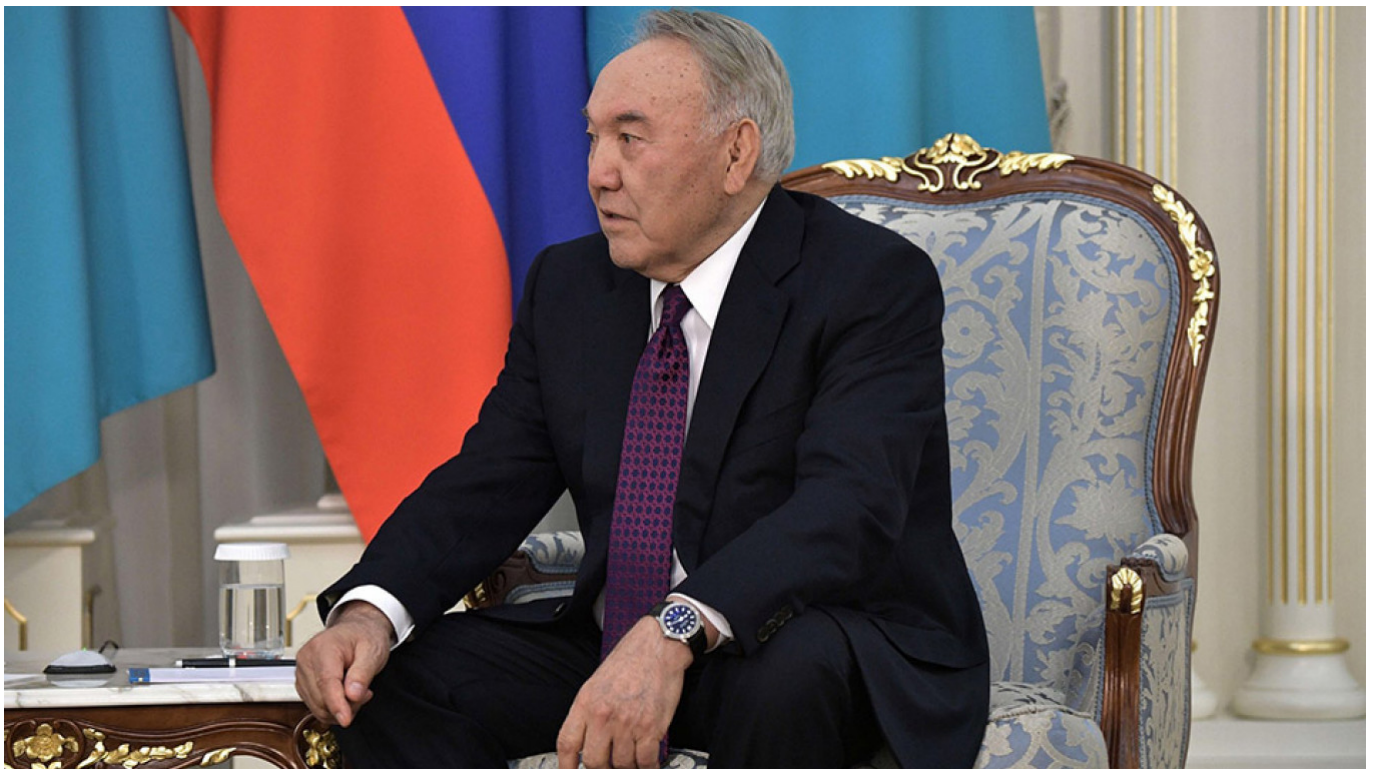


Kazakh Ex-President Tests Positive for Coronavirus

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Nursultan Nazarbayev, 79, is at least the second post-Soviet leader to become infected with coronavirus. [Kremlin.ru](https://www.kremlin.ru)

Kazakhstan's ex-president Nursultan Nazarbayev has tested positive for coronavirus, his press service [announced](#) Thursday.

Nazarbayev, 79, [stepped down](#) last year after almost 30 years in power in the oil-rich Central Asian nation, retaining key security council and party leader positions while handpicking a loyalist as his successor. As a former Soviet republic, Kazakhstan maintains close ties with Moscow.

"The first president of Kazakhstan is currently in self-isolation. Unfortunately, his last test for the coronavirus infection showed a positive result," Nazarbayev's press service said.

"There's no cause for concern. Nursultan Nazarbayev continues to work remotely," it added.

Nazarbayev is at least the second post-Soviet leader to become infected with coronavirus.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan tested positive for Covid-19 in early June, while the wife of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy was hospitalized with the infection this week.

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