

Kyrgyz President Sits Out Moscow WWII Parade After Staffers Test Positive for Virus

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Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Zheenbekov [Kremlin.ru](https://kremlin.ru)

Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Zheenbekov pulled out of attending Russia's Victory Day parade after two members of his delegation tested positive for coronavirus upon arriving in Moscow, his press service [said](#) Wednesday.

Zheenbekov was one of several leaders set to attend the parade on Red Square marking the 75th anniversary of the Soviet victory over the Nazis in World War II.

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Kyrgyzstan's president, who makes a point of NEVER wearing a mask or taking proper precautions, arrived in Moscow yesterday but has refrained from going to Victory Day parade because two people in his retinue have been found to have

coronavirus <https://t.co/2RzSMLp4oI>

— Peter Leonard (@Peter__Leonard) [June 24, 2020](#)

Zheenbekov will now spend three days in self-isolation, his press service [said](#). The two staffers who tested positive for Covid-19 will self-isolate for 14 days.

The leaders of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — in addition to the heads of breakaway Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia — were present at Wednesday's parade.

The parade — which was postponed from May 9 due to the coronavirus — is being seen as a major showcase for President Vladimir Putin ahead of a nationwide vote on constitutional reforms that would allow him to extend his rule by 12 years.

Observers have [warned](#) that staging the mass event, which featured 14,000 troops from 13 countries, could trigger a new wave of coronavirus infections. Russia has continued to see thousands of new Covid-19 cases in recent weeks, surpassing 600,000 on Wednesday.

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