Korea’s Response to COVID-19 from the Public Health Perspective
Current Situation
Daily new confirmed and discharged cases (as of 8 July)

Confirmation of Yong-in 66th case (Index case of Itaewon clubs) Distancing in daily life

Relaxed social distancing

Graph showing daily new confirmed and discharged cases with specific dates and numbers.
Daily new confirmed cases by chain of transmission (as of 8 July)
Imported cases

(as of 8 July)
New cases (for last 2 weeks) by chain of transmission (as of 8 July)
Preparedness & Response
Recommendations from WHO-ROK Joint Mission on MERS outbreak in 2015

- Early identification and monitoring of all contacts
- Regular provision of information to the public including Prompt information sharing
- Strengthening capacity of medical facilities including training experts for infection control and prevention, laboratory

<Core elements of APSED* III>
* Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies
Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response (1)

Introduced

- Smart quarantine (Entry Screening)
- EOC, 24hrs/7days
- Field response team
- Risk communication (Dedicated department/officer)

Expanded

- Negative pressure rooms
- FETP and Qualified ICP staff
- Inpatient rooms (under 4 patients)
- Comprehensive nursing services
Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response (2)

• Surveillance, risk assessment and response
  - **Risk assessment** for decision-making of response measures (national crisis level as well)
  - Immediate notification and sharing situation report through IHR with WHO regional office

• Risk communication
  - **Media briefing** by KCDC Director
  - Prompt disclosure of updated information

• Public health emergency response
  - **Full engagement of local government and multi-sectoral collaboration** in contact tracing

• Prevention through health care
  - Rapid identification of the case and reporting from healthcare facility
  - Improvement on Infection Control and Prevention practice
Evolution of COVID-19 in Republic of Korea

- Dec 31, 2019: Cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown origin reported to China National Health Commission
- Jan 3, 2020: Raise the alert level to Blue
- Jan 7, 2020: 1st case in Thailand
- Jan 8, 2020: Named 2019-nCoV; Whole genome sequence shared with WHO
- Jan 12, 2020: Raise the alert level to Yellow
- Jan 13, 2020: 1st Emergency Committee
- Jan 14-15, 2020: 1st Emergency Committee
- Jan 17, 2020: Raise the alert level to Orange
- Jan 22-23, 2020: 1st Emergency Committee
- Jan 23, 2020: Containment of Wuhan
- Jan 30, 2020: Raise the alert level to Yellow
- Jan 30, 2020: Tertiary infection available at local government
- Feb 1, 2020: 1st Wuhan evacuee
- Feb 2, 2020: COVID-19 test available at private
- Feb 4, 2020: Entry ban on foreigners with travel history to Hubei, China
- Feb 7, 2020: COVID-19 test available at private
- Feb 8, 2020: 1st death case in Korea
- Feb 9, 2020: Big cluster occur (Shincheonji, Daenam Hospital)
- Feb 10, 2020: COVID-19 test available at private
- Feb 19, 2020: Declare a ‘special management region’ in Daegu, Chengdo
- Feb 20, 2020: First death case in Korea
- Feb 21, 2020: Declare a ‘special management region’ in Daegu and Gyeongsan
- Mar 1, 2020: Establish Life Treatment Center
- Mar 5, 2020: Establish Life Treatment Center
- Mar 7, 2020: Establish Life Treatment Center
- Mar 11, 2020: Establish Life Treatment Center
- Mar 12, 2020: Establish Life Treatment Center
- Mar 19, 2020: Declare a ‘special management region’ in Daegu, Gyeongsan
National Laboratory System establishment before COVID-19

- Operating tiered laboratory network from the national to the local level that is evenly distributed throughout the country
  - Hospitals and other commercial facilities → 256 Public Health Centers → 18 RIHEs → KCDC

- Establishing specimen transport arrangement
  - Specimens can be transferred to the KCDC within 24 hours for confirmatory testing

- Development of laboratory capacity to diagnosis of infectious diseases
  - KCDC is able to test 86 nationally notifiable infectious disease
  - Developing laboratory test methods to identify unknown and emerging infectious diseases

- Operating Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) system
  - EUA permits temporary use of unapproved in vitro diagnostic devices during infectious disease outbreak
The number of Laboratory Testing (as of 25 March)

Testing Institutions (Total 118):
KCDC, National Quarantine Station 4, Research Institutes of Public Health and Environment (RIPHEs) 18, Private medical Laboratories and hospitals 95

- **Capacity**: Average ca. 15,000/day ~ Max. ca. 20,000/day
- **Turn Around Time**: 6 ~ 24hrs

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- 357,896
Ensuring early patient detection through screening clinics and diagnostic testing

- Operation of Drive-Thru Sample Collection & Screening Clinics
Contact tracing strategy: stepwise approach

Contents

- Interview
  - Obtain information through patient interview (identify route)
  - If necessary, perform preemptive defense against infectious diseases

Method/Tool

- Interview
  - Patient
  - Primary physician
  - Family

- Collective objective information
  - Gather additional information
  - Check and verify results of the interview
  - Perform evaluation for the classification of contacts

- Investigate medical records
- Phone location information (GPS mobile)
- Card transaction log
- CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television)

Contacts management

- Close contact
  - Move restriction

- Casual contact
  - Sx. monitoring

- Perform contacts classification and management by following guidelines
Response measures along with the progress of outbreaks (as of 10 May)

- Escalation of national alert level to Level 4 (Red)
- Designation of special management region for Daegu, Gyeongbuk
- Postpone of the beginning of schools to Mar 9th
- Focus on treatment of severe cases
- Establishment of Life treatment centers for mild cases
- Social distancing campaign
- Designation of 290 national safe hospitals
- Start monitoring of all Shincheonji members
- Screening tests of all staffs in Cheongdo daenam hospital
- Nationwide check of psychiatric ward
- Identification and start of testing for 9,334 members of Shincheonji Daegu group
- Confirmed 31st case related to Shincheonji
- 3rd postpone of the beginning of schools to April 6th
- Special Entry Procedure expanded to all incoming travelers
- Enhanced social distancing extended for two more weeks
- Strengthened screening procedure for incoming travelers from US
- Guideline for people in self-quarantine to vote for general election
- Mandatory self-quarantine for 14 days of all incoming travelers
- Enhanced social distancing for next 15 days
- Special Entry Procedure expanded to travelers from Europe
- Provinicial level case management team established
- Immunofluorescence Assay established
- Identification of Guro call center cluster
- Drive thru screening center SOP established
- Confirmation of Yong-in 66th case (Index case of Itaewon clubs)
- Distancing in daily life
- Relaxed social distancing
Treatment and care system differentiated based on severity

**Early detection**
- Epidemiological investigation
- Extensive lab testing
- Special entry procedure
- Self-health check application

**Classification of confirmed cases**
- Mild
- Moderate
- Severe
- Very severe

**Treatment and care**
- Self-quarantined or
- Living and treatment support center
- General hospital or
- Infectious diseases designated hospital or
- Tertiary hospital
Living and treatment support centers
# Self Health Check Mobile App

## Start mobile app

- **Daily Self-Diagnosis**  
  - (一日自己診断チェック)
  - **Submit (提出)**

- **Self Health Check Mobile App**

## Proceed with special quarantine form

- **Special Quarantine Declaration**  
  - *Passport No. (パスポート番号)***
    - Please Enter Your Passport Number.
  - *Phone select the Region you have visited or actually lived in the last 14 days.*
    - (最近14日以内に訪問したり、実際の居住地域を選択してください。)

  - **Select (国番号選択)**

  - **Phone Number (携帯電話番号)**

  - **PHONE NUMBER VERIFICATION (携帯電話番号確認)**

  - **Emergency Contact in Korea**
    - (韓国で連絡可能な知人の電話番号)
    - Please input numbers only, except a hyphens.

  - **Name of School in Korea**
    - (韓国内の学校名)
    - Please enter the name of the school.

## Proceed with daily Self Health Check

- **Daily Self-Diagnosis**
  - Choose the symptoms you have today  
    - (今日の症状を選択してください）
  - No symptoms (無症状)  
    - **Fever - above 37.5 degrees (または発熱)***
      - YES (はい)  
      - NO (いいえ)
  - **Cough (乾呑)**
    - YES (はい)  
    - NO (いいえ)
  - **Sore Throat (喉の痛み)**
    - YES (はい)  
    - NO (いいえ)
  - **Dyspnea (呼吸困難(息切れ))**
    - YES (はい)  
    - NO (いいえ)

## Check screening clinics

- **www.mohw.go.kr**

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<th>Self-Isolation and Screening Centers &amp; Governmental Hospitals (2021-05-07)</th>
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<tr>
<td>- If you have symptoms of COVID-19, please call your local health center to arrange for a COVID-19 test.</td>
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<td>- For more information, please visit the Ministry of Health and Welfare’s website.</td>
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KCCSC Call Center: 1339  
Version: release 3.1.3  
open source library.
Social distancing, distancing in daily life campaign

As of 23 March

Avoid physical contact with other people.
Put 2-meter “healthy distance” between yourself and others.

No night out
No religious gathering
No indoor fitness facilities

For the next 15 days, please participate in enhanced social distancing.

Stay home as much as possible.
Cancel or postpone non-essential travel, events, and social gatherings.

High-risk facilities are strongly recommended to suspend operation.
Religious facilities, indoor fitness facilities, nightlife venues

Venues that remain in operation must strictly comply with the infection prevention guidelines.

As of 21 March

As of 6 May

A NEW ROUTINE
DISTANCING IN DAILY LIFE

Stay home for 3~4 days if you’re sick.
Keep a distance of two arms’ length between you and other people.
Wear a facemask in any indoor public-use venue or outdoor environment if you can’t keep 2-meter distance from other people
Wash your hands for 30 seconds.
Cough/sneeze into your sleeve.
Ventilate your space at least twice a day and disinfect regularly.
Keep in touch with family and friends while maintaining physical distancing.

A new routine to keep COVID-19 away, let’s make it happen together.

Korea Centers for Disease Control & Prevention