# KOREA NEWS AND NATIONAL POLICY ON COVID-19

extract from Korea Centers for Disease Control & Prevention official web-site

## Korean government's response system

Korea's Crisis Alert Level has been raised to the highest Level 4 on February 23, 2020 and has assembled the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters headed by the Prime Minster to bolster government-wide responses to COVID-19.

Each local government establishes Local Disaster and Safety Management Headquarters led by the heads of the local governments to secure an adequate number of Infectious Disease Hospitals and beds. If the countermeasure required is beyond the capacity of local governments, the central government may support necessary resources including beds, personnel, and supplies.

## Preventing the inflow and spread of the virus

### *Through border screening*

The Korean government introduced an entry ban on foreign nationals from Hubei Province, strengthened visa screening of travelers from China and Japan, and designated China (including Hong Kong, Macau), Italy, and Iran as 'quarantine inspection required areas', to tighten screening of travelers from these countries.
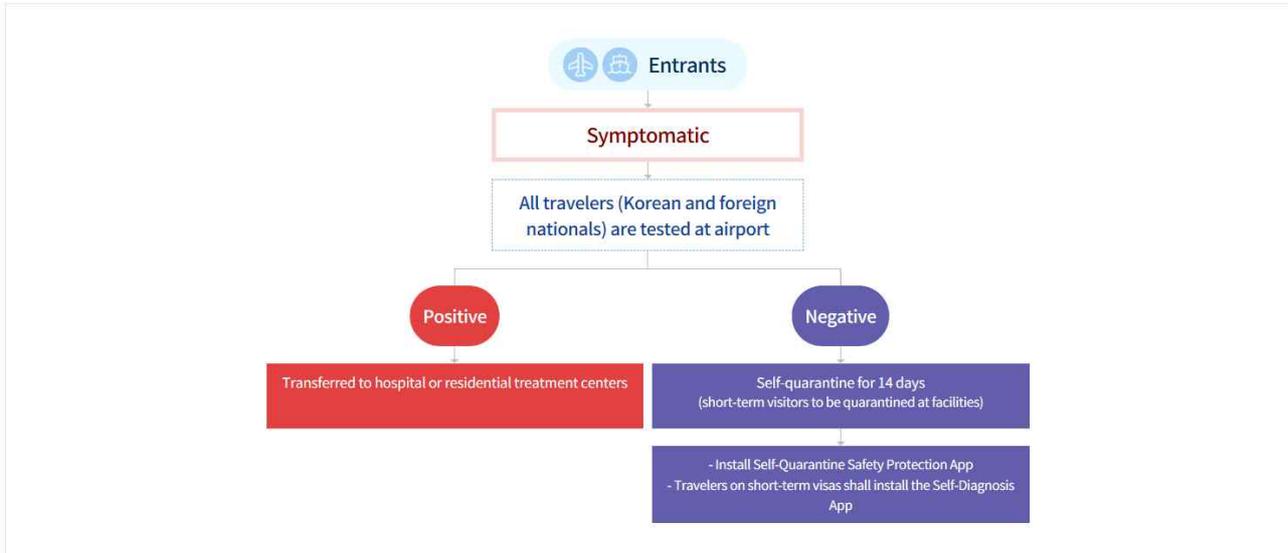
### *Special Entry Procedure*

The Korean government expanded its Special Entry Procedure to all travellers from all parts of the world on March 19. All inbound and travallers receive temperature screening and fill out the Health Questionnaire and Special Quarantine Declaration in accordance with the Special Entry Procedure. All travelles subject to the special procedure are allowed to enter the nation after their contact information and address of residence in Korea is verified. They are also required to install either the 'Self-Quarantine Safety Protection App' or ' Self-Diagnosis App' on their phones to monitor if they show symptoms that indicate infection of COVID-19 such as fever during their stay in Korea. All inbound travellers must install either of the two applications, to check their health status and record if they develop any symptom on a daily basis for 15 days beginning from the day of arrival. The lis of incoming travellers is provided to each local government in an effort to strengthen the monitoring system.
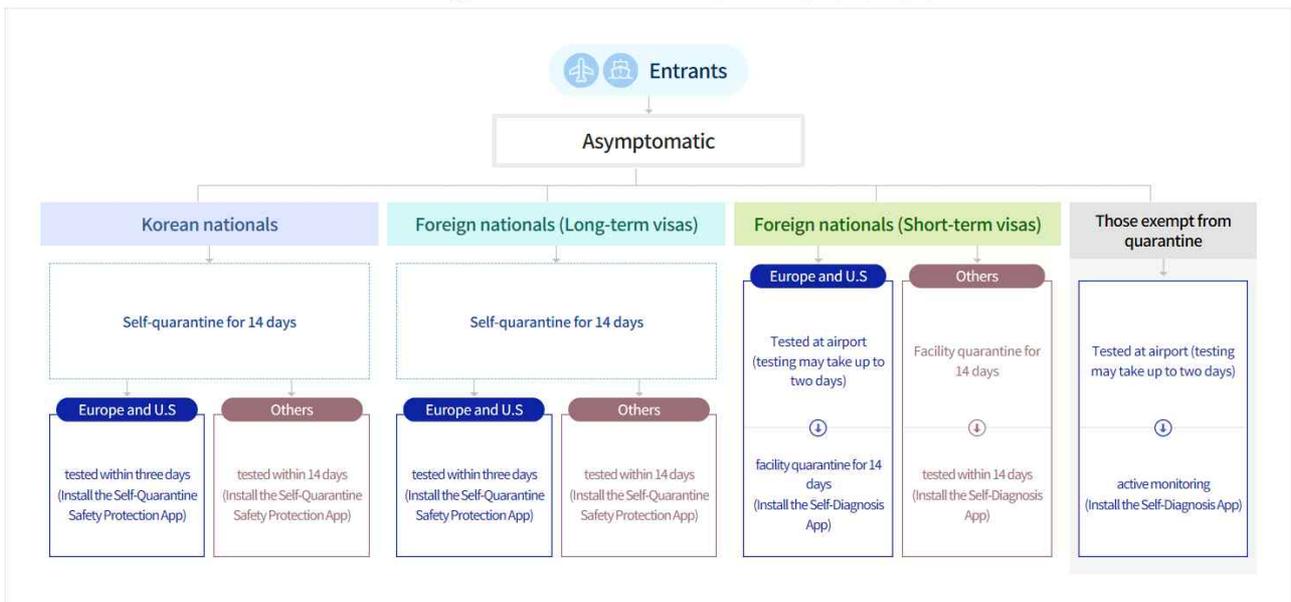
### *Stronger measures for infection prevention and control of overseas entrants*

All travellers entering Korea are subject to a 14-day quarantine from the day after arrival since April 1.

✔ Border screening procedures for inbound travelers (from 00:00, May 15) - Symptomatic

✈ ⛴ Entrants

**Symptomatic**

All travelers (Korean and foreign nationals) are tested at airport

**Positive**

**Negative**

Transferred to hospital or residential treatment centers

Self-quarantine for 14 days
(short-term visitors to be quarantined at facilities)

- Install Self-Quarantine Safety Protection App
- Travelers on short-term visas shall install the Self-Diagnosis App

✔ Border screening procedures for inbound travelers (from 00:00, May 15) - Asymptomatic

✈ ⛴ Entrants

**Asymptomatic**

| Korean nationals | Foreign nationals (Long-term visas) | Foreign nationals (Short-term visas) | | Those exempt from quarantine |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Self-quarantine for 14 days | Self-quarantine for 14 days | **Europe and U.S** | **Others** | |
| | | Tested at airport (testing may take up to two days) | Facility quarantine for 14 days | Tested at airport (testing may take up to two days) |

| **Europe and U.S** | **Others** | **Europe and U.S** | **Others** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| tested within three days (Install the Self-Quarantine Safety Protection App) | tested within 14 days (Install the Self-Quarantine Safety Protection App) | tested within three days (Install the Self-Quarantine Safety Protection App) | tested within 14 days (Install the Self-Quarantine Safety Protection App) | facility quarantine for 14 days (Install the Self-Diagnosis App) | tested within 14 days (Install the Self-Diagnosis App) | active monitoring (Install the Self-Diagnosis App) |

For inbound travelers, testing and treatment expenses are covered by the Korean government but livelihood support are not provided. If a traveler entering Korea does not comply with the quarantine guidelines, s/he may face up to 1 year of imprisonment or a KRW 10 million fine for violating the Quarantine Act and Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act. In accordance with the Immigration Act, foreign nationals violating the regulations may face deportation or ban on entry into Korea, etc.

The Korean government allows medical institutions to access overseas travel history of patients through the system that checks health insurance eligibility of patients, International Traveler Information System (ITS), and Drug Utilization Review (DUR)

## *Early detection and containment*

- COVID-19 screening stations:

Screening stations provide consultation to people showing symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough or fever before they visit medical facilities. As of April 8, 2020, 638 public health centers and medical institutions operate screening stations, of which 95 percent (606) are equipped to collect specimens onsite.

Diverse forms of screening stations have been introduced such as drive-thru and walk-thru screening station.

- Diagnostic tests

There are currently 118 testing facilities—23 public facilities, 81 medical institutions, and 14 entrusted facilities—that provide diagnostic tests. As of April, a total of five diagnostic reagents were granted Emergency Use Authorization.

Since scaling up testing facilities and diagnostic reagents, the maximum daily testing capacity increased from 3,000 people in February to approximately 20,000 people as of April.

## Preventing spread of the virus through epidemiological investigations and quarantine of contacts

### *Epidemiological investigation*

Basic information including whereabouts of confirmed cases are collected through an interview with confirmed cases. If needed, interview with healthcare workers and family members may additionally take place. In case the acquired information is insufficient, more objective data (medical records, mobile GPS, CCTV footages, credit card records, etc.) may be collected and verified.

The contacts identified during the investigation are required to attend healthcare education, have their symptoms monitored, and stay in self-quarantine. Information on the whereabouts of confirmed cases are uploaded on websites in order to prevent any additional infection.

### *Contact management*

Family members, housemates, and other contacts identified by epidemiological investigation on the patient's travel and infection routes are subject to self-quarantine for the maximum incubation period (14 days) beginning from the day after the date of contact with a confirmed patient and have their symptoms monitored.

The Ministry of Interior and Safety and local governments thoroughly manage those under self-quarantine on a one-to-one basis. Those in self-quarantine are prohibited from leaving the country for 14 days regardless of their health status. Those who violate self-quarantine guidelines may face up to a 10 million KRW fine or one year of imprisonment.

Source:

http://ncov.mohw.go.kr/en/baroView.do?brdId=11&brdGubun=111&dataGubun=&ncvContSeq=&contSeq=&board_id=&gubun=

10 Best Practices of the Republic of Korea for COVID-19

1. Self-Quarantine Saftely Protection App
2. Self-Health Check App
3. AI Care Call Service (for active monitoring)
4. Masking Rationing System and Mask Alert Apps

5. Informing the Public of Confirmed Cases

6. Self-Quarantine

7. Screening Stations (Drive-Thru and Walk-Thru)*

8. Living Treatment Centers

9. National Safe Hospitals

10. Temporary Quarantine Facility (for short-term foreign inbound travellers)

*Types of Screening Stations (Drive-Thru and Walk-Thru)
- Container-style with air-conditioning system
- Marquee tent, open-style which wide enough for car to drive-through testing (separate marquee for wash and disinfection for staff)

Source:
http://ncov.mohw.go.kr/en/duBoardView.do?brdId=12&brdGubun=121&dataGubun=&ncvContSeq=2602&contSeq=2602&board_id=&gubun=

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Cases in Korea (as of 00 on June 8)
Confirmed cases: 11,814
Released from Quarantine: 10,563
Quarantined: 978
Deceased: 273

Source:
http://ncov.mohw.go.kr/en/bdBoardList.do?brdId=16&brdGubun=161&dataGubun=&ncvContSeq=&contSeq=&board_id=&gubun=