The current COVID-19 situation and response measures in Republic of Korea
Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response

- 24-hour / 7days EOC operation

- Fostering field officers required for early, rapid response
  - Increased the number of EIS officers, formation of rapid response team

- Expanding and maintaining infrastructure in preparation for possible emerging infectious disease outbreaks
  - Increased the number of isolation rooms and negative pressure isolation rooms

- Development of emerging infectious disease manual, sharing of medical information, and strengthening of on site emergency response education exercises
About KCDC EOC (1)

History of EOC Construction

2016.3

Temporary EOC

2018.1

Completed EOC building

2019.1

Completed interior design & IT system of EOC
The Zone of New EOC

**Training Room**
- Training & educating the EOC staff

**Decision Room**
- Holding the internal risk assessment

**Main Room**
- Operating IMS, Conducting a ER exercise
- Approximately 70 staff available

**Operation Room**
- Operating watch desk 24/7, Supporting IMS
About KCDC EOC (3)

Current New KCDC EOC
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 20, 2020
First confirmed case in Korea

Jan 30, 2020
Containment of Wuhan

Jan 30, 2020
Secondary infection case

Feb 7, 2020
COVID-19 test available at private

Feb 1, 2020
1st Wuhan evacuee

Feb 12, 2020
Expand strict quarantine to HK, Macau

Feb 19, 2020
Big cluster occur (Shincheonji, Daenam Hospital)

Feb 20, 2020
First death case in Korea

Feb 19, 2020
WHO declare PHEIC of COVID19

Feb 21, 2020
Declare a ‘special management region’ in Daegu, Chengdo

Feb 23, 2020
Declare a ‘special management region’ in Gyeongsan

Mar 5, 2020
Establishment of Life Treatment Center

Mar 12, 2020
Guideline for high-risk working environment distributed

March 19, 2020
Special Entry Procedure extended for all travelers

Jan 8, 2020
1st case in Thailand

Jan 12, 2020
Named as 2019-nCoV; Whole genome sequence shared with WHO

Jan 22-23, 2020
1st Emergency Committee

Jan 30, 2020
WHO declare PHEIC of COVID19

Feb 4, 2020
Entry ban on foreigners with travel history to Hubei, China

Feb 23, 2020
Raise up the alert level to Red

Mar 1, 2020
Focus on treatment of severe cases
Disease and Health Portal Management System
The number of confirmed cases (as of 6 April)

Korea Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
Weekly trend of imported cases

(as of 6 April)

Week 4: 3 cases (China)
Week 5: 4 cases (Asia excluding China)
Week 6: 3 cases (Europe)
Week 7: 2 cases (Africa)
Week 8: 3 cases (Americas)
Week 9: 2 cases (China)
Week 10: 3 cases (Asia excluding China)
Week 11: 1 case (Europe)
Week 12: 14 cases (Africa)
Week 13: 111 cases (Americas)
Week 14: 145 cases (Asia excluding China)
Week 15: 10 cases (Europe)
Distribution by regions and clusters

(as of 6 April)

Regional distribution

- Seoul: 563
- Busan: 122
- Daegu: 80
- Incheon: 27
- Gyeonggi: 46
- Daejeon: 40
- Ulsan: 45
- Jeollabuk: 45
- Jeollanam: 136
- Gyeongsang: 1316

Distribution by clusters

- Shincheonji: 5208 (50.6%)
- Other clusters: 3275 (31.8%)
- Imported cases: 1032 (10.0%)
- Under investigation or sporadic cases: 769 (7.5%)
Distribution of confirmed cases (as of 6 April)

All confirmed cases

Fatal cases and fatality rate

CFR = 1.81%
Response measures along with the progress of outbreaks

(as of 4 April)

- Escalation of national alert level to level 4 (Red)
- Designation of special management region for Gyeongsan
  - 742 public health doctors deployed
- Designation of special management region for Daegu, Gyeongbuk
- Postpone of the beginning of schools to Mar 9th
- Screening tests of all staffs in Cheongdo daenam hospital
- Focus on treatment of severe cases
- Establishment of Life treatment centers for mild cases
- Started monitoring of all Shincheonji members
- Identification and start of testing for 9,334 members of Shincheonji Daegu group
- Confirmed 31st case related to Shincheonji
- Nationwide check of psychiatric ward
- Drive thru screening center SOP established
- Immunofluorescence Assay established
- Special Entry Procedure expanded to travelers from Europe
- Enhanced social distancing for next 15 days
- Enhanced social distancing extended for two more weeks
- Enhanced social distancing extended for two more weeks
- 2nd postpone of school opening to Mar 23rd
- 3rd postpone of the beginning of schools to April 6th
- Special Entry Procedure expanded to all incoming travelers
- Social distancing campaign
- Prophylactic management team established
- Nationwide psychiatric ward check started
- Monitoring of all Shincheonji members
- Guideline for high risk working environment distributed
- Special Entry Procedure expanded to travelers from Europe
- Postpone of the beginning of schools to Mar 9th
- Special Entry Procedure expanded to all incoming travelers
- Identification of Guro call center cluster
- Prophylactic management team established
- Special Entry Procedure expanded to travelers from Europe
- Mandatory self-quarantine for 14 days of all incoming travelers
- Postpone of the beginning of schools to Apr 6th
- 4th postpone of the beginning of schools to Apr 9th

Response measures along with the progress of outbreaks (as of 4 April)
National Laboratory System

- 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 80 nationally notifiable infectious disease (120 pathogens)
  - 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

![Graph showing the number of laboratory testing over time with a peak of 357,896]
Contact tracing strategy: stepwise approach

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

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

**Contact classification**
- **Interview**
  - Patient
  - Primary physician
  - Family

**Contacts management**
- **Close contact**
  - Move restriction
- **Casual contact**
  - Sx. monitoring

**Contents**
- **Method/Tool**
  - Investigate medical records
  - Phone location information (GPS mobile)
  - Card transaction log
  - CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television)

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

- **Perform contacts classification and management by following guidelines**
SMART quarantine information system after MERS outbreak in 2015

<Completed Smart Quarantine System (2017)>

**National Quarantine station**

- **Incoming passengers' information**
- **Quarantine inspection**
- **Symptomatic persons**
- **Asymptomatic persons**
- **Passport information** (Korean nationals)
- **Inform what measures have been taken for passengers from contaminated countries**
- **Inform risks & guidelines for reporting** (Automatic SMS)
- **Consult & report** (Call 109)
- **Inform whom measures have been taken for patients from contaminated countries**
- **Report symptomatic persons**
- **Consult & report**

**Ministry of foreign affairs**

- **Incoming passengers' information**
- **Consult & report**

**Ministry of justice**

- **Incoming passengers' information**
- **Consult & report**

**KCDC**

- **Mobile subscriber's information (Roaming service information)**
- **Enter overseas travelers information into DDR & Health Insurance Systems**
- **Alert healthcare facilities of patients coming from contaminated countries**

**National Health Insurance Corporation**

- **Consult & report**

**Local Health Center**

- **Consult & report**

**Healthcare facilities**

- **Consult & report**

**Quarantine process linked to relevant institution**

**Management (Testing, Quarantine, Hospitalization)**

**Persons returning from abroad**

**Take measures**

<Diagram of the SMART quarantine information system after MERS outbreak in 2015>
Self Health Check Mobile App

Start to Mobile app

Proceed with special quarantine form

Proceed with daily Self Health Check

Check screening clinics

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.
  (Latest 14 days or included, select the region where you have been.
  Please submit the mutual quarantine form.)

Select (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
  (If needed, call on 1339 or call the overseas emergency number.)

Name of School in Korea
  (If needed, enter the name of the school.)

Daily Self-diagnosis

Choose the symptoms you have today

Fever: above 37.5 degrees (または発熱は感じています)

Cough:

Sore Throat:

Dyspnea (呼吸困難)

No symptoms (無症状):

Submit (提出)

www.mohw.go.kr

The Nearest Designated Medical Clinic

View

Only Korean version is available

Emergency numbers:

1339 (Korea)

KCDC Call Center (KCDC Call Center)

Check screening clinics

Korea Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Infection Control
e-mail (02) 901-1526

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Social distancing campaign

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

As of 23 March

No night out
No religious gathering
No indoor fitness facilities

As of 21 March

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.