

## La Corée du Sud face au coronavirus - Episode 1: Emergence (20 janvier-19 février)

Sources utilisées (essentiellement JoongAng Ilbo et Korea Herald)

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3072940>

### Time to be on alert

Jan 23, 2020

It has been confirmed that a new type of coronavirus originating from Wuhan, China, can be transferred from person to person. The case has caused alarm at airports and harbors in Korea and China during their Lunar New Year's holidays which stretches from Jan. 24 to 27 in Korea and for a longer period in China. On Tuesday, Korea's Center for Disease Control (KCDC) announced that a Chinese tourist from Wuhan was found to have been infected with the virus. Three Koreans showed similar symptoms of the respiratory disease.

As a result, concerns are rapidly growing over the possibility of chaos — and the loss of many lives — similar to that of the outbreaks of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) in 2015.

The so-called "Wuhan pneumonia" has spread fast to Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong Province, and Hong Kong since the outbreak of the lethal virus infected a Chinese woman during a visit to a seafood market in the inland city. The virus has now spread to Thailand, Japan and Korea, popular attractions for Chinese tourists. The World Health Organization has convened an emergency meeting to deal with the fatal virus.

China cannot avoid responsibility for not promptly responding to the virus. Chinese public health authorities have been unwilling to disclose information about the infection. In China and Hong Kong, 774 people died from SARS partly due to the laid-back attitude of Beijing. The health authorities are under attack for not checking the body temperature of passengers in railway stations and airports in Wuhan until 17 days after the outbreak of the pneumonia. The Chinese woman who was discovered to have been infected with the lethal virus managed to pass through a check point at an airport in Wuhan on Sunday.

Despite Seoul's request to Beijing for detailed information about the pneumonia, China did not offer anything except putting information about the genetic code of the virus on a global influenza information-sharing site. We are disappointed at China's insensitivity. Our government must urge Beijing to share related information with us and bolster its quarantine effort.

Our government should be extra careful during the Lunar New Year's holidays in particular. As many as 100,000 Chinese tourists are expected to visit Korea during the holidays. Eight non-stop flights take off from Wuhan to Korea each week.

Unfortunately, medicines to effectively treat the Wuhan pneumonia have not been developed yet. The KCDC must deal with it proactively, including instructing people to wash their hands often and wear masks when they go outside. Our government must control the virus before it is too late.

JoongAng Ilbo, Jan. 22, Page 30

Haut du formulaire

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3072862>

### China's new virus reaches Korea

*Sick woman from Wuhan is detected at Incheon Int'l Airport*

Jan 21, 2020

Korean health authorities on Monday confirmed the country's first case of the mysterious SARS-like coronavirus, stoking fears of an outbreak across Asia.

In a press conference, Jung Eun-kyeong, director of the Korea Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (KCDC), said a Chinese woman who entered Korea on a flight from Wuhan, China, on Sunday tested positive at Incheon International Airport for a coronavirus infection and was placed under quarantine.

With the discovery of this first case, Korea will be raising its infectious disease alert level from blue to yellow, while launching monitoring teams across the country.

The woman, aged 35, is a resident of Wuhan who said she visited a local hospital in the city after developing a fever, muscle pains and chills on Saturday. The hospital gave her a prescription for cold medicine, which she took, Jung said.

The patient said she had not visited Wuhan's traditional market nor had any contact with wild animals. While little is yet known about the new coronavirus strain that is believed to have infected 198 people in Wuhan since Jan. 20, Chinese health experts suspect the disease may have started in a seafood market in the city, where animals like marmots are sold.

Coronaviruses are a wide variety of viruses that can cause diseases ranging from the common cold to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which caused over 770 deaths after raging through southern China between 2002 and 2003.

So far, a total of 201 people have been diagnosed with the new strain, tentatively called 2019-nCoV, in China, of which three have died. The virus causes a pneumonia-like disease accompanied by symptoms like a high fever or coughing.

Chinese authorities are on high alert to prevent a possible outbreak as people in the country travel to their hometowns for the Lunar New Year holidays. Particular attention has been placed in monitoring Wuhan, which has a population of around 19 million and is an important transport hub in China.

On Monday, local health authorities in Beijing reported two new coronavirus cases in the Chinese capital, which follows news reports of three suspected cases in Shenzhen and Shanghai. Last week, Japan reported one case and Thailand two, all involving patients who had returned from trips to China.

Health experts in China say the risk of human-to-human transmission is low but recommended people wear face masks in public.

The World Health Organization on Monday said it was likely that close human-to-human contact may have been the cause of some of the transmissions.

The KCDC said it began tests on other passengers and crew from the same flight as the patient and will monitor their health for the next two weeks.

Of seven people who showed symptoms of the coronavirus, three were placed in isolation for testing while the other four were released, Jung said, adding that an additional 14 other people were being monitored in connection with the virus.

The KCDC urged any people who visit Wuhan to refrain from contact with wild animals

and not consume uncooked products.

After receiving a briefing Monday, Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun ordered Minister of Health and Welfare Park Neung-hoo to redouble the government's efforts to contain any outbreak before the virus spreads further.

"The Health Ministry and KCDC will disclose all information related to quarantine and disease prevention efforts to the people in a swift and transparent manner in order to prevent alarm over the matter," Chung said.

BY SHIM KYU-SEOK [shim.kyuseok@joongang.co.kr]

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3072894>

### **Humans can spread virus: China**

*Confirmation comes from health authorities after first case in Korea*

Jan 22,2020

The coronavirus that's causing an outbreak of a pneumonia-like illness can be transmitted from person to person, health authorities in China announced Monday night, stoking fears in Korea after it was confirmed that a Chinese national tested positive for the infection earlier in the day.

### **Subway sterilization**

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073093>

#### **Subway sterilization**

Jan 29,2020



Workers disinfect subway facilities at Gwanghwamun Station of Line No. 5 in Seoul on Tuesday to prevent the spread of coronavirus.[YONHAP]

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200126000075&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200126000075&ACE_SEARCH=1)

Doctors' group asks government to review restricting visits from China

By Kim Arin

Published : Jan 26, 2020 - 20:47      Updated : Jan 26, 2020 - 20:50

A major doctors' group on Sunday 26 JANVIER called on the South Korean government to make all necessary administrative preparations, including an entry restriction from China, to contain the spread of the new coronavirus discovered in Wuhan, China.

In a briefing at its office in Yongsan, central Seoul, the Korean Medical Association's president Choi Dae-zip said that while the limit on entry "may not be imperative right now, at the time of speaking," blocking the visitor flow may be "one of the most vital preventive measures against the epidemic."

"Confirmed cases are increasing by the hundreds each day. Now is the time for a proactive, all-out action," he said.

"Health authorities should be monitoring the outbreak situation in China by the hour and consider the possibility of an entry ban."

This would run counter to government efforts to repatriate the 500-600 Korean citizens believed to remain in or around Wuhan.

Choi said the government should "brace for the worst case scenario," calling for an emergency-level response akin to that applied during the outbreak of Middle East respiratory syndrome in Korea in 2015.

He said patients who are showing symptoms of infection should first call the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hotline, 1339, before visiting the hospital, in order to prevent its spread.

He also stressed strict observation of hygiene rules such as wearing of masks with filtration capabilities of KF 94 or higher at all times, and washing hands.

Earlier the same day, the KCDC said all regions of mainland China would be designated as an "area of contamination" from Tuesday.

The centers said all passengers from China would be required to identify their health conditions via a questionnaire when entering the country.

In addition, visitors from Hubei Province and the rest of China who are showing symptoms of pneumonia will be quarantined.

Choi said the government should draw up a list of everyone in Korea who had been in Wuhan or its surrounding Hubei Province and test them for infection.

Some 200 personnel from the Ministry of Defense, National Police Agency and regional governments will be deployed to help with screening at the airports, the centers said.

[https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/01/24/coronavirus-deux-premiers-cas-confirmes-en-france-a-bordeaux-et-paris\\_6027158\\_3244.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/01/24/coronavirus-deux-premiers-cas-confirmes-en-france-a-bordeaux-et-paris_6027158_3244.html)

Contrairement à d'autres pays, la France n'a en effet pas mis en place de mesure de contrôle aux frontières des passagers venant de Chine, mais selon une source

aéroportuaire il y a désormais « *un accueil spécial pour les vols chinois avec la remise de masque. L'accueil se fait dans le calme* ».

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3074967>

At the beginning, the government was in a cleft stick. As an old Korean saying goes, "High hopes, high disappointments." The number of people calling for Moon's impeachment online has approached 1.5 million. Moon's incompetent response to the surge of the coronavirus is not the only thing about the president that citizens distrust.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200127000243&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200127000243&ACE_SEARCH=1)

Military doctors, nurses, soldiers to be mobilized for coronavirus quarantine efforts

By Yonhap

Published : Jan 27, 2020

About 100 military doctors, nurses and ordinary soldiers will be mobilized for quarantine operations aimed at preventing the spread of the new type of coronavirus, the defense ministry said Monday.

The military personnel have been assigned to 21 checkpoints set up at seaports and airports across the country and will help with body temperature checks and other quarantine efforts, the ministry said.

After the government raised its infectious disease alert level by one notch to "orange," the third highest, on the day, the ministry set up a control center on its own led by Vice Defense Minister Park Jae-min.

"During its initial meeting, the center pledged to continue to seek diverse measures to proactively support nationwide countermeasures by mobilizing military personnel, equipment and facilities," the ministry said in a release.

The center will also focus on all-out efforts to prevent the virus from spreading to barracks, it added.

Meanwhile, the military is checking all soldiers who have recently visited China, but none have so far shown any symptoms, according to officials

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073069>

## **No time for playing politics**

Jan 28, 2020

Korean health authorities confirmed the fourth case of the coronavirus yesterday, eight days after the first case was reported. In light of the fact that Korea's Lunar New Year holidays overlapped with China's Spring Festival and many people traveled between the two countries during that period, Korea's infection toll might shoot up this week now that Koreans are coming back home. The virus is known to transmit faster between people than the 2015 Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), which claimed 36 lives in Korea, which is why the Korean government needs to take strong measures quickly.

Despite the severity of the case, it was not until Monday, the last day of the Lunar New Year holidays, that Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare set up a so-called central disaster management headquarters for the virus outbreak and elevated the national infectious disease alert level from "yellow" to the second-highest "orange" level. Some critics denounced the government for failing to act quickly enough.

China's National Health Commission said Monday that 2,744 infections have been reported in China, Hong

Kong, Macau and Taiwan combined, of which 80 proved fatal. A total of 32,799 cases of close contact have been traced by the commission. The Chinese government announced the extension of its Spring Festival holidays for three days, and schools have accordingly been forced to postpone the start of their semester.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073062>

Shortly after the fourth patient was confirmed on Monday, the Korean government elevated the national infectious disease alert level from the second “yellow” level to the third “orange” level on the four-tier system, raising alarm that more people could be diagnosed.

The fourth “red” level is imposed when an infectious disease spreads throughout an entire local community or across the nation.

Among the three Korean patients who newly tested positive for the virus over the holidays, the third patient was perhaps the most heavily scrutinized by the government - and criticized by the public - for roaming around the busiest district of Seoul, Gangnam, after returning from Wuhan on Jan. 20. Korea’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) said he used to live in Wuhan, meaning he wasn’t there for a temporary visit. He was diagnosed with the virus Sunday.

Local health officials said it appeared he went near 74 people from Jan. 20 to Sunday, in restaurants, a coffee shop, a hotel and a plastic surgery clinic, mostly in either Gangnam District, southern Seoul, or Ilsan, just northwest of Seoul in Gyeonggi.

In a press briefing Sunday, health officials said the third patient visited Glovi Plastic Surgery in Sinsa-dong, Gangnam; Hotel Newv in Yeoksam-dong, Gangnam; a GS convenience store right next to the Han River in Jamwon-dong, Seocho District, southern Seoul; and several other restaurants in Gangnam and Ilsan, whose names were undisclosed.

A KCDC official said most places where he visited have been sanitized over the holidays, adding that officials were working their way down the list and continuing disinfection work.

Along with the fourth patient, the third patient also raised red flags in Korea because they didn’t show any signs of the virus when they arrived back in the country through the airport, where officials have been trying to track down infected patients before they contact anyone else, and put them under quarantine.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200128000740&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200128000740&ACE_SEARCH=1)

Wuhan virus scare spreads in S. Korea

By Ock Hyun-ju

Published : Jan 28, 2020

In Korea, a total of 112 people had shown symptoms of the virus as of Tuesday morning. Fifteen people are in isolation and awaiting test results, and the remaining 97 have tested negative, according to the public health agency.

Parents voiced concerns about their children’s safety in classrooms as schools started to reopen Tuesday.

"We were informed by the school that we should wash our hands and wear masks when going outside," said a 39-year-old mother, whose 8-year-old child goes back Wednesday.

"But I am not sure whether the children can be effectively controlled when they gather inside the school," she said. "Even though children wear masks outside, they don't wear them inside classrooms. If not told, children usually don't wash their hands either."

Language courses for foreign students at local universities, including Yonsei University and Korea University, were canceled.

On Seoul streets and on public transportation, more people were seen wearing protective masks.

Public safety concerns intensified as two of the latest patients diagnosed with the virus were found to have passed screening at airports and led normal activities in public for days without their conditions being detected by health authorities.

Some 172 people have come into contact with a 55-year-old Korean man who tested positive Monday, according to the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday.

The man, who showed no symptoms of infection upon arrival at an airport Jan. 20, traveled from the airport to his home in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province, by airport limousine and taxi, and took a bus to a hospital in the city.

More than 510,000 people signed a petition on the presidential office's website calling on the government to turn away visitors from China at the airport as a "preemptive measure."

"To be honest, I don't want to run into Chinese tourists and students as it may be possible they entered Korea carrying the virus," said Park Sung-joon, 31, who had just bought a box of masks. "I hope the government conducts a thorough check on everyone entering Korea from China."

The government said Monday that it was not considering imposing an entry ban on travelers from China.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073061>

Although visible effects on the economy are yet to be seen from the fast spread of the coronavirus, Hong said the government has initiated a thorough investigation into the possible negative outcomes that may arise from the increasingly spreading infection.

Since the first patient infected with the virus was reported on Jan. 24, which was the start of the Lunar New Year holidays, fears of the virus becoming a pandemic have heightened sharply, especially with the confirmation of the fourth case in Korea on Monday.

The coronavirus has infected more than 2,700 people in 14 countries and caused 80 deaths worldwide.



This is not the first time Korea has seen its economy affected by a virus outbreak.

According to a report from the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy released last week, the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, which also originated from China, caused Korea's GDP growth rate to lose 0.25 percentage points in 2003.

As Korea started witnessing confirmed cases of SARS in 2003, domestic consumption started to sag. The country's private spending shrank 0.4 percent in 2003 compared to the previous year, even without a major financial crisis. Just one year earlier in 2002, the consumption index posted robust 8.9 percent growth.

In 2015 during the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) outbreak, Korea's economy is estimated to have dropped 0.2 percentage points on its economic growth.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073123>

7-Eleven and CU started encouraging franchise store employees to wear masks while working. 7-Eleven further initiated special supervision on 40 stores that are frequently visited by tourists, like the ones in airports, Myeong-dong in central Seoul and Jamsil in southern Seoul.

Lotte Duty Free on Tuesday said it had organized an emergency planning committee. All employees are required to check their body temperature and wear masks at the stores and delivery areas at airports. It is also offering masks to visitors. Employees who visited China are mandated to take 14 days off.

Lotte Mart on Tuesday announced its guidelines, offering a day off to employees suffering from colds, and adding thermometers and more hand sanitizers at the stores. Lotte Department Store equipped at bathrooms and customer service centers with hand sanitizers. Its sales employees are encouraged to wear masks and gloves.

Emart last week said it is too early to take any particular measures against the coronavirus but said Tuesday it would hand out masks to its employees.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073119>

photo employés de banque : Fighting the outbreak

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073104>

Photo visite hôpital pt coréen

Shim also said over 410,000 people signed a petition on the Blue House's website to ban the entry of Chinese travelers, but Health Minister Park Neung-hoo dismissed it. Park said Thursday that the ban will have more of a negative aftermath than a positive effect. As of Tuesday, over 500,000 people had signed the petition. Concerns are growing inside the Blue House that the spread of the disease to Korea will actually hurt the ruling party in the April general elections.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073152>



## **Schools advised to use ‘emergency management’**

Jan 30, 2020

Education Minister Yoo Eun-hae urged Korean universities Wednesday to operate an “emergency management system” and communicate with the ministry around the clock to prevent the coronavirus from landing on domestic school campuses.

In a meeting with several university officials at the Government Complex in Sejong, Yoo advised schools to refrain from organizing large events such as freshmen orientations and make sure to isolate any student or faculty member who comes from Wuhan, Hubei Province, in central China for 14 days upon their arrival in Korea even if they don’t show any symptoms of the virus.

The incubation period of the virus is 14 days. Wuhan is the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, which has so far infected nearly 6,000 people in China and a handful of other countries. At least 132 people died as of Wednesday, all from China.

Korea has confirmed four cases so far, three from Korean men in their 50s and one from a Chinese tourist in her 30s. All tested positive for the virus shortly upon their arrival from Wuhan this month.

Wuhan has been placed under lockdown since last Thursday.

For students who had gone to Wuhan for their winter break before the lockdown, and are now stuck there, Yoo told Korean university officials Wednesday during the meeting to make sure schools allow those students to adjust their academic schedules once they’re able to come back.

Universities were also told to disinfect their dormitories.

Government statistics show 71,067 Chinese students were enrolled in Korean universities last year, occupying 44.4 percent of the entire body of students from foreign countries. Kyung Hee University in Dongdaemun District, eastern Seoul, had the largest number of Chinese students with 3,839, followed by Sungkyunkwan University in Jongno District, central Seoul, with 3,330 Chinese students, and Chung-Ang University in Dongjak District, southern Seoul, with 3,199 students.

Most universities are about to start their spring semester in early March, but foreign students normally arrive on school campuses earlier to settle into their accommodation, which is why local health authorities are taking extra caution.

Several universities who offer winter break courses to their students advised them not to come to school for a week if they had visited China, or wear masks in class. A spokesperson for Kyung Hee University said the school recently chose the former option.

An official at a university in Seoul who spoke on the condition of anonymity said his school was “nervously” awaiting some hundreds of Chinese students enrolled at the university to return next month following their Chinese Spring Festival holidays.

The holidays, which was originally planned to stretch from last Friday through today, was extended by three days till Sunday by the Chinese government in the aftermath of the virus outbreak.

As China’s death toll rises, some Koreans are urging the government to impose an entrance ban on all Chinese. A Blue House petition demanding such measures garnered more than 570,000 signatures by Wednesday in only a week since it was first uploaded on the Blue House website, and a group of some 30 people rallied outside the Blue House Wednesday afternoon to protest the arrival of Chinese nationals in Korea.

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[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200130000654&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200130000654&ACE_SEARCH=1)

Asan, Jincheon residents continue to protest accommodating evacuees from Wuhan

By Kim So-hyun

Published : Jan 30, 2020 -

Residents of Asan and Jincheon continued on Thursday to protest the government’s plan to use facilities in their towns to quarantine some 700 Korean evacuees from the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the deadly coronavirus outbreak.

The evacuees -- first batch scheduled to be flown out of Wuhan Thursday night -- will be housed at a public officials training center in Asan, South Chungcheong Province, and a

police training center in Jincheon, North Chungcheong Province, for monitoring the symptoms of the respiratory illness that has killed 170 people and infected thousands.

About 30 residents of Asan staged a sit-in overnight in front of the Police Human Resources Development Institute, using tractors and forklifts to block the driveway to the facility.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073155>

The 700 Koreans being evacuated from Wuhan will be glad to get out of the plague zone - but they shouldn't expect a warm welcome home.

People living near the two facilities in Korea where they will be quarantined expressed their discomfort at the plans Wednesday.

"There are many families in this neighborhood with two to three children," a 41-year-old woman who wished to be identified only as Choi said Wednesday. Choi lives near a government facility in Jincheon County, North Chungcheong, that's been chosen to house some of the Wuhan evacuees for 14 days, which is the incubation period for the Wuhan coronavirus.

"I'm flabbergasted and upset that the government chose Jincheon for the isolation facilities. No matter how rushed they are, authorities shouldn't make unilateral decisions without asking our opinion."

The second facility is in Asan, South Chungcheong.

Wuhan is the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, which has so far infected nearly 6,000 people in China and a handful of other countries. The total death toll was 132 by Wednesday, all in China. Korea has confirmed four cases so far.

Some 700 Korean nationals will be airlifted from Wuhan via four chartered flights today and tomorrow.

Following its Tuesday announcement about the airlift, the Korean government announced Wednesday afternoon that two public facilities would be their homes for 14 days.

One is the National Human Resources Development Institute in Jincheon, about 90 kilometers (56 miles) south of Seoul as the crow flies, which is used for training government officials.

The other is the Police Human Resources Development Institute in Asan, South Chungcheong, 86 kilometers south of Seoul, where police officers train.

The Koreans flying in from Wuhan are expected to be assigned to dormitories in the two facilities. Patients who show symptoms of the virus will be immediately transferred to one among 29 government-designated hospitals scattered across the nation for isolation and treatment.

Local health officials said all 700 people will be screened before they board their flights in Wuhan and if they show symptoms, they won't be allowed on.

The Korean government said none of the 700 people so far have been diagnosed with the virus.

In Jincheon and Asan, residents immediately expressed fears that they might be exposed to the illness.

The virus is transmittable between humans, according to Chinese authorities, though local health authorities have so far downplayed the possibility of transmissions during the incubation period.

Ms. Park, 39, said she's decided to take matters into her own hands: by moving out of Jincheon.

"I'm leaving this place to stay at my relative's place or at some other lodging facility," said Park, who insisted on being identified only by her surname for this article. "First thing's first. I'm going to buy some facial masks and detergent."

Kim Jae-ho, 63, a resident of Asan, chimed in. "What was the government thinking to push through the plan without canvassing opinions from the local community?" he asked.

Some Asan residents blocked the entrance of the Police Human Resources Development Institute with farm trucks in a show of defiance.

In a statement Wednesday, a local branch of the Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice representing Asan and the neighboring city of Cheonan, South Chungcheong, urged the government to isolate the returnees in the country's evacuation center for natural disasters near Gimpo International Airport, asking why the government chose locations so far away from their point of arrival.

The returnees are supposed to land at Gimpo airport in Gangseo District, western Seoul.

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<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073178>

Members of a food delivery union even declared they would not deliver to neighborhoods where ethnic Chinese live — except upon getting extra "hazard" fees. Although they have withdrawn the plan, the thought itself was distasteful. The only time they would come in contact with people at the door was when they handed over packaged food with gloved hands. If that's dangerous, anyone working as a cashier in a convenience store or anybody waiting in department stores or restaurants should get premiums for coming in contact with random people in Seoul.

Amid the outbreak of the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) five years ago : At the time, a child of a doctor in a hospital treating MERS patients could not attend school because other parents pressured the school head to keep the child away. Our society had shown its selfish face and it is not by any means pretty.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073181>

But Korean society, which had a traumatic experience with MERS, is on the brink of a breakdown in trust. Day care centers are pressured by parents to ban the entry of Chinese and the children of ethnic Chinese. Some diners have put up “No Chinese” signs on their doors. A petition asking for Chinese people to be banned from entering the country posted on the presidential website drew more than 570,000 signatures. Xenophobia against Chinese is spreading beyond reason.

Some posts online are gruesome. They are full rants against Chinese people and the neighborhoods that they live in. Fake news is going viral.

At times of turmoil, citizenship is essential. The Japanese fought the 2011 mega-earthquake through unity and civilian order. Every citizen should remain calm and use reason. We must endure a little inconvenience as a community. An epidemic should be dealt with with science, not emotions.

The government has not helped. It has been stumbling since Jan. 20, when it confirmed the first case of the Wuhan coronavirus. Insecurity and fear cause more social unrest than the spread of the disease. The government must be reliable in times of crisis. The city of Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi, and the disease control headquarters have differed in identifying the number of people that the fourth patient in Korea came in contact with. The Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education announced it would consider delaying the upcoming school semester that begins in March, while the Education Ministry denied the plan. The government announced that it will quarantine Koreans flying in from Wuhan in Cheonan, South Chungcheong, and then changed the locations to Asan, South Chungcheong, and Jincheon, North Chungcheong. It has opened an emergency hotline, but seated a mere 30 people to take the calls, which have reached over 10,000 a day.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073201>

Désinfection site touristique

**1<sup>er</sup> Coréen infecté localement le 30 janvier**

Two more people in Korea were diagnosed with the new coronavirus Thursday, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to six.

The sixth patient did not visit Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the outbreak, and contracted the virus in Korea from another patient, the first such case.

Local health authorities announced that Korea's fifth patient is a 32-year-old Korean national who visited Wuhan on a business trip and returned home last Friday. He was being monitored by health officials. On Thursday, his test results turned out positive,

and he was transferred to a government-designated hospital for quarantine treatment.

Health officials identified the sixth patient as a 56-year-old Korean man who was in the physical proximity of Korea's third confirmed patient, a 54-year-old Korean man who recently returned from Wuhan. The sixth patient was also being monitored for possible symptoms before test results turned out positive Thursday. He's been transferred to a government-designated hospital for quarantine.

The first confirmed patient in Korea was a 35-year-old Chinese woman who traveled from her home in Wuhan to Incheon International Airport on Jan. 18 to spend the Lunar New Year holidays with friends in Korea and Japan. She was immediately transferred to a nearby hospital for quarantine after airport officials detected symptoms of the virus upon her arrival.

The second, third and fourth patients, all of whom are Korean men in their 50s, were diagnosed over the Lunar New Year holidays shortly upon their arrival from Wuhan. The third patient was the most heavily scrutinized by the government - and criticized by the public - for roaming around the busy district of Gangnam after returning from Wuhan, where he was living, on Jan. 20.

Local health officials said it appeared patient No. 3 went near 74 people from Jan. 20 to Jan. 26, in restaurants, a coffee shop, a hotel and a plastic surgery clinic, mostly in either Gangnam District, southern Seoul, or Ilsan, just northwest of Seoul in Gyeonggi.

That means that more people who came within a certain distance of the third patient could soon be diagnosed with the virus, given that the incubation period is 14 days and the virus can be transmitted from human to human.

Officials said the third and fourth patients didn't show any signs of the virus when they arrived at the airport in Korea.

As local concern about the virus grows, President Moon Jae-in threatened "stern" measures against producers of fake news about the coronavirus Thursday, saying false information about the disease impedes the government's efforts to contain the outbreak.

In a meeting with cabinet members and top officials of local government offices at the Seoul Central Government Complex in Gwanghwamun, central Seoul, Moon said it was imperative that authorities "respond sternly" against "fake news that goes beyond freedom of expression," highlighting that creating and spreading untrue details about the virus is a violation of the country's criminal code.

Moon's warning came as local police have been investigating false rumors about the coronavirus spreading on social media platforms such as YouTube, online forums and KakaoTalk.

One such rumor that spread online earlier this week was that a high school student in Suwon, Gyeonggi, was confirmed as Korea's fifth coronavirus patient. Another rumor was that someone believed to have been infected with the virus lived in Changwon,

South Gyeongsang.

“No matter how high quality [the government’s] disease control system is,” said Moon, “it can’t work properly without trust” from the public. Moon ordered health officials to reveal all information about the virus transparently, quickly and as specifically as possible.

On the upheaval in the central Chungcheong provinces where Koreans returning from Wuhan will be quarantined, Moon said he “understands” the people’s “anxiety” but asked for their cooperation, saying his government would make sure to keep the quarantine measures under control.

The Korean government relayed plans this week to evacuate some 700 Koreans living in Wuhan via four chartered flights and isolate them in the National Human Resources Development Institute in Jincheon County, North Chungcheong, which is used for training government officials; or the Police Human Resources Development Institute in Asan, South Chungcheong, where police officers train.

The quarantine announcement immediately drew a backlash from Jincheon County and Asan residents.

In regard to Moon’s fake news order, the Korea Communications Standards Commission, the country’s online censorship body, said it’s been looking out for fake news on the coronavirus since Monday. The Korean National Police Agency said Thursday it’s also checking major portal websites for groundless rumors, in part by designating a “monitoring agent” at each of 17 local police branches, whose job is to track down online posts claiming that an additional patient has been pronounced in a certain city or region.

Police said investigations into the Suwon and Changwon infection rumors have opened. Under Korea’s information protection laws, those who intentionally spread fake information to arouse public anxiety could face a year in prison or up to 10 million won (\$8,400) in fines.

Officers Thursday warned the public against spam text messages, saying some swindlers were anonymously sending out text messages with a link that tricks recipients into clicking a URL to check out information about infected patients they know. Police said they blocked access to the website and are investigating the case.

As local government offices take their own measures to contain the outbreak, the provincial government of Jeju Island said Thursday that it was in discussions with the Ministry of Justice to temporarily suspend a visa waiver program for Chinese visitors.

Since 2002, Chinese nationals have been allowed to visit Jeju without a visa for up to 30 days. Jeju’s announcement hints the measure could be rolled back for a while.

The Korean Medical Association took a bolder step Thursday in confronting the issue, advising local authorities in a statement to reduce or block all flights from China to Korea.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073492>

On Jan. 30, Korea decided to provide \$5 million in emergency assistance to China, saying that its “private and public sectors are united in helping the people of China” and stressing the “deep bond” of the people and “friendly relations” between the two countries.

The Korean government also pledged a total of \$300,000 to several cities close to Wuhan, including Chongqing.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073281>

The industry has become smarter after experiencing two pandemics. The Sejong Center for the Performing Arts and other big cultural or exhibitions centers have installed fever-checking cameras at all of their entries. They also have hand sanitizers and masks available at their facilities. The theater that stages the long-running instrumental performance “Nanta” in Myeong-dong, central Seoul, has posted guidelines for virus-preventing actions in multiple languages and makes regular announcements through loudspeakers. The production manager said the theater was taking extra cautionary steps to lessen anxieties for audiences.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073232>

The KCDC advises all people with such symptoms to wear a face mask at all times, and anyone who shows such symptoms after visiting China’s Hubei Province, where Wuhan is located, within 14 days to call the KCDC’s hotline at 1339.

All foreigners who require translation to communicate their situation regarding the virus can call the Korea Tourism Organization’s travel hotline at 1330 or the Immigration Contact Center at 1345.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073248>

The government had planned to use four chartered planes to bring them all home, but changed the plan to two. However, in the end, just one aircraft was granted permission to airlift Korean citizens after marathon talks with authorities in Beijing. The plane will return to Wuhan to pick up the rest.

The meager evacuation plan also complicated quarantine measures. Authorities had hoped to keep enough space on the plane between passengers to minimize the risk of infection.

Beijing began to restrict chartered planes as the scene could imply exodus from China. Koreans and other governments were asked to fly chartered planes at night and reduce the number of flights.

Beijing cared more about saving face than the safety of other nationals, but the Seoul government also should be blamed for its sloppy actions. It only moved to evacuate



citizens after the United States and Japan took action. We cannot imagine how scared the people left behind must be.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200131000673&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200131000673&ACE_SEARCH=1)

Face masks, hygiene products running out amid new coronavirus outbreak

By Yonhap

Published : Jan 31, 2020 - 16:25

Demand for protective face masks and hand sanitizer has soared here as both local residents and travelers from China stocked up as a precaution against the new type of coronavirus, industry sources said Friday.

Just days after the first case of the new strain of the pneumonia-like virus was confirmed in the country, surgical masks began selling out at pharmacies in Myeongdong, one of Seoul's most visited tourist spots among Chinese travelers.

The visitors from mainland China and Hong Kong lined up outside drug stores to purchase boxes of face masks to help protect themselves as there had as yet been no major shortages here.

As of Friday, South Korea has reported 11 confirmed cases of the novel virus, which has killed more than 200 in China.

The sources said stocks of face masks ran out quickly at branches of the country's major 24-hour convenience stores, such as CU and 7-Eleven, prompting operators to control inventory.

BGF Retail Co., the operator of CU, said sales of hand sanitizer and mouthwash more than doubled after news emerged of a confirmed human-to-human transmission of the virus.

Packs of face masks have been sold out on major shopping websites as well, with customers experiencing cancellations and retailers saying they do not know when or whether the products will be back in stock.

Several vendors selling masks and hand sanitizer on e-commerce marketplaces, including Gmarket and Auction, have come under fire for charging up to 10 times the going rate for the masks.

In an effort to soothe the general public's concern, the government said it will crack down on retailers driving up the prices of such sanitary items.

The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety said it has launched a nationwide inspection into distribution network of surgical masks and hand sanitizer to assure that supply is well maintained.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073265>

**Supplies of masks, first line of defense, just can't keep up**

Feb 01, 2020

Mask makers will be able to work overtime to meet soaring demand for protection against the Wuhan coronavirus after the government relaxed enforcement of its 52-hour workweek regulations.

According to the Ministry of Employment and Labor on Friday, starting Friday, companies will be allowed to work overtime in times of disaster including the spread of a virus.

The government changed its enforcement rules, which doesn't require approval by lawmakers.

Under current law, companies with more than 50 employees have to follow the 52-hour workweek regulations.

The only exception is when there's a disaster, including the spread of a virus.

"These changes will help companies deal with accidents," the Minister of Employment and Labor Lee Jae-gap said.

As the new coronavirus spreads, sales of masks have been skyrocketing.

Prices of masks with KF94 rates, which have fine filters, more than doubled from 29,000 won (\$24) last Sunday to 53,000 won on Tuesday.

The home shopping industry is jumping on the mask bandwagon.

Lotte Home Shopping sold 500 sets of masks in just five minutes last Tuesday. It said it rushed 25 million won worth of KF94 masks onto the market but can't keep up with soaring demand.

Another TV shopping channel, CJ O Shopping, said 6,000 sets of masks sold out in 55 minutes.

Hyundai Home Shopping increased its supply by 70 percent, but on Wednesday, 3,000 sets of masks sold out in 18 minutes.

Namyeung Vivien store in Lotte Department Store in Jung District, central Seoul, said that 10,000 KF94 masks sold out within a day.

"All the masks sell in the blink of an eye," a Namyeung Vivien spokesperson said. "We are considering ways to strengthen core production and logistics systems to increase production."

Good People, an underwear brand, announced that its KF94 mask sales increased 175 percent in stores nationwide last month compared to the previous month.

Meanwhile, Vice Finance Minister Kim Yong-beom held a meeting Thursday and said the government will crack down on hoarding of supplies next month. It wants to prevent businesses profiteering from mask and hand sanitizer sales.

Violations may result in imprisonment for up to two years or fines of up to 50 million won.

The Fair Trade Commission will strengthen its monitoring of unfair trading practices, including mask price hikes. Violations may result in penalties of up to three years in jail or fines of up to 200 million won.

The decision by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send 2 million regular face masks, 1 million medical masks and 100,000 medical supplies to Wuhan on Thursday sparked controversy in political circles.

"China desperately needs our help," a former member of the New Conservative Party, Koo Sang-chan, said.

On the flip side, the move was criticized. "Our citizens are struggling to find their masks," said Kim Sung-won, a spokesman for the Liberty Korea Party.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073293>

Photo fermeture d'un magasin fréquenté par une personne contaminée

Three duty-free stores, two supermarkets and two movie complexes were shut down after possibly being infected with the Wuhan coronavirus over the weekend. But shopping websites enjoyed popularity among customers not wishing to brave brick-and-mortar stores, with some reporting problems meeting delivery deadlines.

Shilla Duty Free's Seoul branch in the city center closed Sunday after it was realized that

Patient No. 12, a Chinese national in his late 40s, shopped there twice in late January.

“The temporary close was immediately decided upon after receiving notice from the public health authorities on Feb. 1 that Patient No. 12 had visited our Seoul branch on Jan. 20 and 27,” said a company spokesman.

The store was not forced to close, and Shilla said the measure was a “preventive one aimed to protect the safety of customers and staff.” The store was “professionally cleaned” by an outside company.

“We plan to reopen once we’re assured that there is no problem for the safety of our staff and customers,” added the spokesman, without specifying a date.

Lotte and Shilla Duty Free branches in Jeju Island also indefinitely closed from Sunday. The decision came after the Jeju regional government announced the store had been visited by a Chinese tourist who was confirmed to be infected with the disease in China on Jan. 30.

Two branches of Korea’s largest cinema chain, CGV, halted operations last week for the same reason.

CGV’s Bucheon branch in Gyeonggi was also visited by Patient No. 12 on Jan. 20. On Saturday evening, as soon as the company became aware of the patient’s visit, customers were ejected.

“We didn’t stop the movies that were already being played but every session after that was immediately canceled,” said a CGV spokesman. “The authorities didn’t force us to [close], but customers’ concerns are understandable.”

CGV’s Sungshin Women’s University branch in Seongbuk District, central Seoul, halted operations on Jan. 31, the day after receiving notice from authorities that Patient No. 5 had visited on Jan. 25. The spokesman said the branch is expected to reopen today.

This is the first time CGV was forced to close theaters due to the disease. The chain was unaffected by the outbreaks of severe acute respiratory syndrome, SARS, in 2003 and Middle East respiratory syndrome, MERS, in 2015.

Discount chain Emart’s branch in Bucheon, Gyeonggi, closed Sunday afternoon. Patients No. 12 and 14 shopped there on Jan. 30. This was the second Emart store to close following the branch in Gunsan, North Jeolla, which halted operations from Friday 6 p.m. after confirming that Patient No. 8 shopped there on Jan. 29.

A company spokesman said Sunday there was no definite reopening plans.

E-commerce sites, on the other hand, have experienced difficulty coping with booming demand as more consumers purchase daily necessities and fresh food online.

Market Kurly, a website popular for delivering fresh food overnight, uploaded a pop-up notice on its website Saturday saying it would no longer accept orders for refrigerated

perishables that day, as daily capacity for its delivery center was full.

Coupang informed customers Saturday that its overnight delivery service for fresh food would be delayed by a maximum of two hours. This service normally delivers goods on customers' doorsteps by 7 a.m. the day after ordering.

The number of orders for Coupang's "rocket delivery," which offers the same service for nonperishable products, peaked at 3.3 million on Jan. 28, which was double the volume compared to the same day a year earlier.

## **2 FEVRIER: CORONA MAP**

<http://coronamap.site/>

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200202000239&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200202000239&ACE_SEARCH=1)

'Coronamap' showing confirmed patients' movements attracts more than 3m visits

By Lim Jeong-yeo

Published : Feb 2, 2020 - 17:51      Updated : Feb 2, 2020 - 17:51

A Korean college student's self-coded "Coronamap," showing the movements of confirmed coronavirus-infected patients before they were put in quarantine, has recorded more than 3 million visits and may soon record 5 million, reports said Sunday.

The map is marked with a web of lines showing the places visited by the 15 patients in Korea and where they are currently confined.

It also spells out the number of people showing symptoms of pneumonia and other complications possibly related to the coronavirus.

Lee Dong-hoon, the developer of the map, is reportedly a final-year Kyung Hee University student in the department of industrial and management systems engineering.

The 27-year-old was quoted in local media reports as saying he evaluates media reports "conservatively" and updates the map as quickly as he can in real time.

Lee obtains his data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Korea and through citizen reports to his e-mail at [ehdgns1766@naver.com](mailto:ehdgns1766@naver.com).

By Lim Jeong-yeo ([kaylalim@heraldcorp.com](mailto:kaylalim@heraldcorp.com))

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073314>

Feb. 2, the government announced a ban on entries of foreigners who have visited Hubei Province within the past two weeks beginning Feb. 4. Korean nationals who visited Hubei Province are to be self-isolated for 14 days.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200203000490&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200203000490&ACE_SEARCH=1)

Retailers in S. Korea close outlets due to new coronavirus

By Yonhap

Published : Feb 3, 2020 - 11:39      Updated : Feb 3, 2020 - 14:55

## **Fermetures de magasins**

A string of major retailers, including duty-free shops and hypermarket chains, across the have temporarily shut down some of their stores, industry sources said Monday, stoking concerns that China coronavirus outbreak could affect consumer confidence in the sector.

Shilla Duty Free, one of the country's leading duty-free operator, on Sunday closed its two outlets in central Seoul and on the southern resort island of Jeju after two coronavirus-infected people had each visited the shops.

The country's 12th confirmed patient -- a 49-year-old Chinese man -- arrived Jan. 19 at Gimpo International Airport in western Seoul. He visited the duty-free shop inside Hotel Shilla on Jeju Island on Jan. 20 and on Jan. 27, according to the company.

Lotte Duty-Free, another major player here, also shut down its outlet on Jeju Island starting late Sunday after it was confirmed that another Chinese patient had visited the outlet last month.

"We just started banning new customers entering the shop and asking the customers to leave the outlet," a company official said.

"We will announce the date of the re-opening after discussing the matter with health authorities and the Jeju provincial government officials."

E-Mart Inc., the country's leading discount chain operator, said its store located in Bucheon, a city just outside of Seoul, has been closed since late Sunday as it was confirmed that the 12th patient and his wife, also the 14th confirmed case, had shopped at the site.

The company said disinfection operations have been made to prevent possible contamination, without disclosing details on re-opening.

The country's 12th case worked as a tour guide in Japan and came in contact with a Japanese national who was diagnosed with the infection. The guide was symptom-free upon arrival and had freely moved about the country.

An investigation by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed that he had contact with a total of 138 people in Seoul, the surrounding Gyeonggi Province, and Gangwon Province.

A movie theater affiliated with CJ CGV, South Korea's largest multiplex cinema chain, in Bucheon has been closed since Saturday after the country's fifth patient was known to have gone there.

An outlet of Korean cuisine restaurant chain Hanilkwan in Seoul followed suit, as the third and fifth patients confirmed as infected with the virus dined together there on Jan. 22.

South Korea reported a total of 15 confirmed coronavirus cases early Monday. The death toll from the virus in mainland China has reached 361, topping that of the severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak in 2003.

Amid the fast spread of the new strain of virus and new confirmed cases in the country, market watchers say the outbreak has just started to affect the local consumer sentiment.

"It looks like local consumer confidence just began being affected on news of new confirmed cases and the rising death toll in China, coupled with new confirmed cases in the country," said Park Sang-joon, an analyst at Kiwoom Securities Co.

"Consumer confidence in retail sector could possibly further be dented if the number of new cases in the country increases."

Others also say major local cosmetics and duty-free operators dependent on Chinese tourists could be hit hard amid concerns that the fast-spreading China coronavirus may hurt their sales and profitability.

"Stock price is likely to hit the bottom during this week,"

said Park Shin-ae, an analyst at KB & Securities Co, adding that Hotel Shilla, a duty-free operator, and Amore Pacific Co., the nation's leading cosmetics maker, could take the hardest hit.

Amid increasing concerns over further spread of the virus, the country's three major department stores suffered decreased sales over the weekend, compared to a year earlier.

Lotte Department Store's sales were down 11 percent compared to a year earlier, according to industry sources.

Shinsegae Department Store reported its sales were down 12.6 percent during the weekend compared to a year earlier, with its Myeongdong outlet reporting a 23.5 percent on-year decrease.

Duty-free stores, which are largely dependent on Chinese vendors, also logged decreased sales at their downtown outlets.

Chinese vendors and individual Chinese merchants make duty-free purchases of such products as cosmetics in large quantities and sell them on back home.

The sources said Lotte Duty Free, a major duty-free operator here, reported around a 30 percent decrease in sales over the weekend. (Yonhap)

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200203000556&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200203000556&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **MANQUE DE MASQUES**

Supply shortage of face masks in S. Korea due to Chinese buying binge

By Yonhap

Published : Feb 3, 2020 - 12:01

"We cannot sell KF94 masks as supply does not meet demand," said a staff member at a pharmacy in Jongno, central Seoul. "It is hard to secure inventory of such masks even if we paid more money."

Industry watchers attributed the supply shortage to massive purchases by Chinese tourists or individual merchants.

As word of South Korean masks having good quality has spread, demand for such products among the Chinese appears to have increased.

"One Chinese tourist purchased boxes of masks at 4 to 5 million won. Considering each box has around 900 masks, he bought four to five boxes," said an official at a pharmacy in Myeongdong, a shopping district in downtown Seoul.

Post offices are busy in handling parcels heading for mainland China.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200203000508&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200203000508&ACE_SEARCH=1)

S. Korea to adopt enhanced quarantine measures to fight coronavirus

By Yonhap

Published : Feb 3, 2020 - 11:42

Doctors at the country's **532 clinics** will be able to conduct detailed tests on people complaining of illness that may be linked to the new virus.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200203000896&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200203000896&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **FERMETURE ECOLES**

Coronavirus shuts down nearly 340 schools in S. Korea

By Ock Hyun-ju

Published : Feb 3, 2020

Some 340 schools, kindergartens and day care centers nationwide are temporarily closed as of Monday, amid public fears over the spread of the coronavirus.

According to the Ministry of Education, 245 kindergartens, 53 elementary schools, 21 middle schools, 16 high schools and one special-education school postponed reopening following the month-long winter vacation or halted operations to rein in the spread of the coronavirus.

Most of the schools affected by the virus are in Suwon, Bucheon or Goyang in Gyeonggi Province, Gunsan in North Jeolla Province and in Seoul, where those infected with the virus have come from or visited.

Schools in areas considered to be vulnerable to the spread of the virus are now allowed to make a decision at their discretion on whether to temporarily close doors through prior consultations with regional educational authorities.

Education authorities in Suwon and Bucheon ordered all kindergartens and some elementary and middle and high schools in the cities to close for a week.



Authorities in Goyang recommended closure for all its kindergartens in the city for one week. However, only nine out of 157 kindergartens were closed, which led the ministry to revise the total number of kindergartens from 393 to 245 in the afternoon.

In Seoul, a total of nine schools -- one kindergarten, three elementary schools, two middle schools and three high schools -- were temporarily shut.

In Gunsan, all kindergartens, elementary, middle and high schools were ordered to close for two weeks.

Nurseries in Taejeon in South Chungcheong Province, Gunsan in North Jeolla Province and cities in Gyeonggi Province -- Suwon, Bucheon, Pyeongtaek, Anyang and Goyang -- were closed starting Monday.

Amid growing fears over the further spread of the virus upon Chinese students' return to Korea for a new semester, the ministry said it plans to review whether to delay the reopening of universities this week.

There were an estimated 71,067 Chinese students studying at universities in Korea as of 2019, accounting for 44.4 percent of all foreign students here.

A total of 112 students and school officials are currently in self-imposed isolation after visiting the province, according to a survey of 242 universities by the ministry.

Meanwhile, 21 Korean students and school officials who visited China's Hubei province, the epicenter of the new coronavirus, less than two weeks ago remain in self-imposed isolation, as they are not showing any symptoms of the virus, according to the ministry.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200203000634&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200203000634&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **Wuhan virus: Contacts failing to observe self-quarantine to be fined**

Korea escalates response to fast-spreading epidemic

By Kim Arin

Published : Feb 3, 2020

The government said on Monday all contacts of Wuhan coronavirus cases will be required to undergo 14 days of self-quarantine starting Tuesday. Those failing to observe the quarantine order will be subject to a fine of up to 3 million won (\$2,500), as per the laws on infectious disease control and prevention.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/petition-to-impeach-moon-over-south-korea-handling-of-coronavirus-as-cases-hit-1261>

### **Petition to impeach Moon over South Korea handling of coronavirus as cases hit 1,261**

A security guard with a mask stands in front of the electronics shop in Seoul, on Feb 25, 2020, as South Korean President Moon Jae-in appears on TV. PHOTO: NYTIMES

Published

Feb 26, 2020, 7:49 pm SGT

Facebook Twitter <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/petition-to-impeach-moon-over-south-korea-handling-of-coronavirus-as-cases-hit-1261>  
[Chang May Choon](#)

South Korea Correspondent

<mailto:changmc@sph.com.sg>

SEOUL - More than 730,000 people in South Korea have signed a petition to impeach President Moon Jae-in over what they claim is the government's mishandling of the [outbreak of Covid-19](#) in the country.

The [number of infections](#) continued to surge, hitting 1,261 on Wednesday (Feb 26).

The petition criticised Mr Moon for not banning all visitors from China, where the coronavirus originated, and for sending three million face masks to China. Only visitors from China's Hubei province are banned from entering South Korea.

The death tally stands at 12, including a 36-year-old Mongolian who flew in for a liver transplant but caught the virus while in hospital.

A total of 284 new cases were reported yesterday, with most of them linked to [two clusters of infections](#) in the south-eastern city of Daegu and nearby Cheongdo. There are 49 cases in Seoul and 58 in Busan, coming mainly from small clusters of outbreaks at churches and hospitals.

The authorities have said that [mass infections in the country](#) started from a Feb 16 church service by the Daegu branch of the [secretive Shincheonji Church of Jesus](#).

The church has submitted a list of its 212,000 members nationwide to the government, so health officials can start testing those who have flu-like symptoms.

Even as the government goes all out to curb the spread of the virus, such as revising an infectious disease act to fine people up to three million won (S\$3,450) for refusing to a test for the virus and limiting the export of face masks to 10 per cent of the output, criticism of the Moon administration's initial laidback response has grown.

The petition calling for his impeachment was filed with the presidential Blue House on Feb 4.

Related Story

[Coronavirus microsite: Get latest updates, videos and graphics](#)

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/wuhan-virus-follow-our-coverage>

The petitioner wrote: "Seeing Moon Jae-in's response to the new coronavirus, I feel that he is more of a President for China than Korea.

"We cannot just watch this catastrophe any more.... I call for impeachment."

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073286>

But the problem is that the Moon administration has been reacting to the spread of the virus without urgency, fueling fear among the public. The government took its actions belatedly, after Jeju Gov. Won Hee-ryong asked for a temporary ban on Chinese people entering the country after a Chinese tourist was found to be infected with the virus. On Jan. 26, the Korea Medical Association recommended the government impose an all-out ban on Chinese visitors to avoid the worst-possible case. Why was the government dragging its feet on the issue?

The government was negative about banning foreigners from entering Korea based on the World Health Organization's advice that foreign governments should not limit their people's trips to China for trade and other purposes. The Moon administration came under attack for bending over backwards not to offend China. According to Chinese authorities, as many as 24 countries have banned entry of foreigners who visited China, including Hubei Province, along with limitations on their visas and bans on flights to China. Two days before the decision by Seoul, Tokyo denied entry of all foreigners who had stayed in Hubei for the last two weeks, and Washington expanded its ban to all parts of China.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200204000753&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200204000753&ACE_SEARCH=1)

**Entry ban, rigorous screening in place at airports**

Travelers markedly fewer amid virus scare on first day of entry ban on China's virus-hit Hubei Province

By Ahn Sung-mi

Published : Feb 4, 2020

INCHEON/SEOUL -- At 12:34 a.m. Tuesday, Korean Air Flight 854 arrived at Incheon International Airport, the main gateway to South Korea, carrying 110 passengers from Beijing.

The flight was the first to touchdown here from China since sweeping restrictions on arrivals from the country took effect, as Seoul ramps up measures to keep the new coronavirus at bay. Some 110 more flights from the virus-hit country, carrying about 10,000, were to arrive on the same day, mostly through Incheon and few through Jeju International Airport.

All passengers arriving from China, regardless of nationality, are required to go through rigorous quarantine and inspection procedures at designated areas separate from arrivals from elsewhere. All foreigners who have been to China's Hubei province, the hub of the deadly coronavirus outbreak, in the past two weeks will be barred from entering Korea.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073392>

### **Schools shut en masse to prevent spread of virus**

*Over seventy percent of 372 temporary closures were by kindergartens*

Feb 05, 2020

Schools are temporarily closing down or postponing the opening of the spring semester to prevent the further spread of the Wuhan coronavirus.

According to the Ministry of Education on Tuesday, at least 372 kindergartens, elementary, middle and high schools across the country temporarily closed down or postponed the opening of the spring semester amid growing concerns about the spread of the virus. Of them, more than 70 percent, or about 267, were kindergartens.

After it was confirmed that Patient No. 12, a 48-year-old Chinese national, and his wife, Patient No. 14, visited Gangneung in Gangwon on Jan. 23, Gangneung Provincial Office of Education suggested public and private kindergartens temporarily close until Wednesday.

Kyunghee University announced on Monday they decided to postpone the opening of the spring semester for a week to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus. Sogang University and Dankook University also postponed their opening for two weeks.

Kyunghee University also ordered 150 students from its Institute of International Education in central Seoul who visited China, as well as who had contact with Chinese nationals while in Korea, to go into quarantine for two weeks. The students are staying at a dormitory building outside of the university and taking online courses. The school also said it will quarantine newly enrolled Chinese students, who plan to arrive in Korea by the end of the month, before they start to attend classes.

Chung-Ang University installed thermal cameras in its dormitory buildings and international office to conduct temperature checks on students. The university will order all students who plan to enter school from China to submit photos of their chest X-rays that have been taken within the last two weeks. Two floors of a dormitory building in southern Seoul are being left empty in case students show symptoms of coronavirus and need to be quarantined.

Yonsei University in western Seoul canceled an inaugural ceremony of its new president Suh Seoung-Hwan that was planned for Monday, as well as its entrance and graduation ceremonies that were scheduled to be held in February.

Gangwon Provincial Office of Education announced on Tuesday that it enforced tougher measures to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus and ordered all students who have visited China, regardless of if they display symptoms or not, to go into quarantine for 14 days from their time of arrival in Korea.

Kangwon National University canceled its graduation ceremonies which were scheduled to be held in its Samcheok campus on Feb. 20 and its main campus in Chuncheon on Feb. 21. The university also canceled many events including its overseas volunteer program in which students were supposed to leave to Laos from this Monday to Feb. 15.

The university ordered seven students from a division of language education who visited China during the Lunar New Year break to go into quarantine for two weeks. Also, it will quarantine 55 newly enrolled Chinese students and 18 exchange students from China, who plan to arrive in Korea by end of the month, before they can attend classes.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200204000883>

### **S. Korea toughens penalties against hoarding of protective masks**

By Yonhap

Published : Feb 4, 2020

SEJONG -- South Korea on Tuesday approved tougher penalties against the hoarding of protective masks and hand sanitizers, as the new coronavirus outbreak has sparked a sharp rise in demand, officials said.

Under the new rule, a person who engages in hoarding of such products will face a prison sentence of a maximum two years or a maximum fine of 50 million won (\$42,108), the Ministry of Economy and Finance said in a statement.

Such penalties will go into effect Wednesday and will be in force until April 30, according to the ministry.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200205000408>

### **MiCo BioMed develops kit to detect coronavirus within an hour**

By Korea Herald

Published : Feb 5, 2020

South Korea's health care solutions developer MiCo BioMed claimed Wednesday it has developed a rapid molecular diagnostic system to detect the novel coronavirus with high sensitivity within an hour.

The Konex-listed company founded in 2009 said the system can immediately confirm the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) to be used at airport and port quarantine sites beyond health care centers.

The company developed 30 different kinds of high-risk pathogen diagnostic kits with the Korean Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Some of them were used to detect bioterrorism pathogens in mobile vehicles during the 2017 U-20 World Cup Games, 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics and 2019 Gwangju Asian Swimming Games.

Based on the experience, the company has also developed a real-time PCR kit to detect 2019-nCoV using MiCo BioMed's LabChip-based real-time PCR rapidly with high accuracy. It is currently awaiting the Emergency Use Approval from the KCDC.

In the near future, the company said it hopes the systems will be applied not only at hospitals but also at airports and harbors, because the viral infection can be identified within an hour

It can also be applied for acute infectious diseases such as the Middle East respiratory syndrome and severe acute respiratory syndrome.

Led by former Korean American scientist CEO Kim Sung-woo, MiCo BioMed has been focusing on molecular diagnostics, biological chemistry and immunoassay diagnostics technology.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073396>

Free masks provided in the city's subway stations have been rapidly disappearing, the Seoul Metropolitan Government said, while entire bottles of hand sanitizer are being stolen.

"Once we place a thousand face masks at subway stations in the morning, they're cleared out in 30 minutes," Kim Jung-il, a public health official with the metropolitan government, said Monday. "We wish people would be conscious enough to take away one piece per head, but that's not how the situation is going."

As of last weekend, the city government had an emergency reserve of six million face masks.

"Some people are taking off with entire bottles," Kim said. "There was a similar incident in the Seoul City Complex building's basement floor. We need to see a more mature degree of citizenship here."

<https://www.lefigaro.fr/conso/coronavirus-en-coree-du-sud-tout-le-monde-porte-un-masque-depuis-fevrier-20200323>

Aleyna, 29 ans, vit dans la capitale, à Séoul. «*Nous portons déjà des masques depuis début février*», explique la jeune femme, qui travaille dans le secteur du luxe. «*Les gens qui ne portent pas de masque dans le métro ou dans la rue sont très mal vus. Il faut porter un masque pour ne pas contaminer les autres*», poursuit-elle. En Asie, le port du masque est perçu comme une prise en compte de l'intérêt collectif.

<https://www.bfmtv.com/mediaplayer/video/coree-du-sud-des-centaines-de-personnes-font-la-queue-pour-acheter-des-masques-1224993.html>

## **Corée du sud: des centaines de personnes font la queue pour acheter des masques**

### **Tourists, shoppers desert markets as illness spreads**

*Vendors are struggling to turn a profit while customers stay home*

Feb 05,2020

Few customers are venturing into Seoul's markets and shopping districts as the coronavirus outbreak drags on, with sales dropping by as much as 40 percent in popular locations including Dongdaemun, Garosu-gil and Insa-dong.

"There is no one around the streets or in the mall since the new year holiday," Joo Young-jo, a 28-year-old employee at Theot, said. Sales dropped by 30 to 40 percent on average, according to the Corporation Dongdaemun Fashion Town Tourism Zone Association.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073429>

### **Too little, too late**

Feb 06,2020

**CHUN SU-JIN**

The author is a deputy editor of the international and security team of the JoongAng Ilbo.

Korea is losing on all fronts in the war against the coronavirus outbreak. After the most important safety net for the people was broken, the public sentiment has turned cold, and the struggling economy is faltering. On Jan. 2, President Moon Jae-in said citizens don't have to feel overly anxious, but he ordered government officials to prepare for the worst on Feb. 4 — coincidentally after a drop in his approval rating was announced on Feb. 3.

It would have been nice to capture the heart of China, but the government failed in that respect, too. It was inconsistent, anxious, and reluctant to impose a full ban on the entry of Chinese people.

RETEX sur le MERS :

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073467>

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073486>

### **Coronavirus hotline information for expats**

Feb 07,2020

Call 1339 to avail of updates in eight languages about the coronavirus in Korea.

The number will put you through to the tourism hotline which provides translation services so you can speak to an official at the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) and a translator in a three-way call.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200207000560&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200207000560&ACE_SEARCH=1)

Following complaints about getting through to the hotline service, the government announced on Jan. 29 that it would immediately hire additional 19 counselors for its hotline. At the time,

the hotline had 27 counselors and faced mounting complaints about busy signals, with callers finding it impossible to use the service.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200207000558&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200207000558&ACE_SEARCH=1)  
Lotte Department Store's main outlet in Seoul to close temporarily over coronavirus fears

By Yonhap

Published : Feb 7, 2020 - 15:34

Lotte Department Store, one of the country's major department store chain operators, said Friday that one of its outlets in downtown Seoul will be temporarily closed starting late Friday for a cleanup following a recent visit there by a patient diagnosed with the new coronavirus.

The store in the downtown Myeongdong area, the most bustling shopping district, will be shut down for sterilization, it said.

The move follows confirmation that a female Chinese tourist from China's Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, visited the department store Sunday, one day before she was diagnosed with the novel virus.

It will be the first time the department store has closed for quarantine purposes, according to company officials.

The store will be reopened Monday after it is thoroughly cleaned and sterilized, they added.

E-Mart Inc., the country's leading discount chain operator, decided to temporarily shut the doors of its store in Mapo, western Seoul, as well, after the same patient visited the place Sunday.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200207000586&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200207000586&ACE_SEARCH=1)  
Seoul city sets up quarantine facility

By Choi He-suk

Published : Feb 7, 2020 - 16:46      Updated : Feb 7, 2020 - 16:46

The Seoul Metropolitan Government announced Friday that the Seoul Human Resource Development Center in southern Seoul will be used to house many of those currently in home quarantine for the new coronavirus.

Seoul Human Resource Development Center in southern Seoul that will house suspected coronavirus patients in quarantine. Yonhap  
Seoul Human Resource Development Center in southern Seoul that will house suspected coronavirus patients in quarantine. Yonhap

The facility will be used to house people required to go into quarantine who have difficulty getting around or have no one living with them who can provide care, or if the infection is deemed likely to spread among family members.



The head of the public health center in each district will decide who should go to the facility, Seoul City said.

The facility, which is capable of housing 30 individuals in single rooms with separate bathroom facilities, will be staffed by medical personnel. Seoul City plans to designate further isolation facilities if the Seoul Human Resource Development Center reaches 80 percent capacity or if the government raises the coronavirus alert level.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200207000437&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200207000437&ACE_SEARCH=1)  
1,100 soldiers quarantined, outdoor drills modified over new coronavirus: defense ministry

By Yonhap

Published : Feb 7, 2020 - 11:35

About 1,100 soldiers are quarantined and outdoor military training has been adjusted as part of efforts to contain the new coronavirus, the defense ministry said Friday.

The quarantined soldiers, including 400 conscripts, have either visited China, Hong Kong or Macao in the past 14 days or had contact with people who traveled to those places, according to the ministry.

The figure has risen over the past couple of days, as more service personnel were found to have visited places where patients or those who had close contact with them had been present.

"The measure is part of our preemptive efforts. No confirmed or suspected cases have been reported at barracks," ministry spokesperson Choi Hyun-soo told reporters.

As of early Friday, South Korea had 24 confirmed cases.

### **Stores close for cleanups after virus visits**

***Lotte Department Store's main branch is closed until Monday***

Feb 08, 2020

Lotte Department Store's main branch in central Seoul closed Friday afternoon after it was confirmed that a Chinese tourist from Wuhan who has come down with the coronavirus shopped there this month.

Lotte Duty Free, which is located in the same complex, closed as well. Both operations will reopen on Monday after being disinfected.

This is the first time Lotte, one of Korea's largest department store operators, halted business because of illness-related issues.

"Through an official announcement from the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we came to know that Patient No. 23 visited our main branch on Feb. 2," the department store said in a Friday statement.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073561>

In Korea, there are 1,062 types of masks approved by the Korean Food and Drug Administration. Everyday, 123 companies are producing 8 million masks with KF levels above 80. As of last Tuesday, 31 million masks are sitting in inventory, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Between Jan. 27 to Feb. 2, a daily average of 530,000 masks was sold in E-mart stores, 30 times larger than the amount sold last year. The discount chain failed to keep up with demand and eventually put a cap on the number of face masks available for sale.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/22/health/coronavirus-restrictions-us.html>

[South Korea](#) avoided locking down any city, but only by moving early and with extraordinary speed. In January, the country had four companies making tests, and [as of March 9 had tested 210,000 citizens](#) —

Anyone even potentially exposed is quarantined at home; a GPS app tells the police if that person goes outside. The fine for doing so is \$8,000.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200210000732&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200210000732&ACE_SEARCH=1)

Monitoring ends for nearly 3,000 people who visited Wuhan

By Park Han-na

Published : Feb 10, 2020 - 16:11      Updated : Feb 10, 2020 - 16:11

Nearly 3,000 people who entered Korea from China's Wuhan have cleared the two-week monitoring period for possible coronavirus infection, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday.

The virus's incubation period passed as of Monday for 2,991 people, including 1,831 foreigners, who entered Korea from Jan. 13-26 after visiting Wuhan, where the new coronavirus was first detected in December. Since they arrived here, KCDC officials have checked on their condition every day via telephone.

The World Health Organization considers 14 days as a safe quarantine period because if a person is infected, any symptoms would have appeared within two weeks of exposure.

Authorities will continue to track down foreigners who they were not able to contact.

"Although the incubation period has passed, we will keep searching for foreigners whom we weren't able to reach and will continue cooperating with city and provincial governments and the police," a KCDC official said.

A 58-year-old Chinese woman, the 23rd confirmed case here, was one of those being monitored.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200211000835&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200211000835&ACE_SEARCH=1)

Inside 1339 hotline office in time of virus crisis

Operating around the clock, call center handles up to 20,000 virus inquiries a day, some from foreigners

By Kim Arin

Published : Feb 11, 2020

Prior to the virus, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hotline center took about 300 to 400 calls per day on average. The number has now soared to nearly 20,000 during peak periods.

Earlier this month, the KCDC added 152 call center agents, bringing the total to 188.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200211000644&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200211000644&ACE_SEARCH=1)  
Coronavirus information center opens for foreigners

By Ock Hyun-ju

Published : Feb 11, 2020

Seoul has launched an information and consulting center on the new coronavirus exclusively for foreigners, with translation services available in eight languages, the Seoul Metropolitan Government said Tuesday.

At the center, set up inside the Southwest Global Center in southwestern Seoul, those illegally staying in South Korea can receive help and medical treatment without worrying about being reported to immigration authorities, officials added.

The Southwest Global Center, the city-affiliated support organization for non-Korean residents, is located in Daerim-dong, Yeongdeungpo district, near Sindorim Station on subway lines Nos. 1 and 2.

The center is tasked with receiving reports, providing counseling and escorting potential patients to hospital upon request. It has distributed guidelines on preventing infection in 10 languages to some 70 organizations that serve foreign residents.

The services are available in eight languages -- English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino, Pakistani, Nepalese, Mongolian and Uzbek. If people require assistance in other languages, such as Japanese, Arabic and Russian, the center will transfer them to the Seoul Global Center so they can get the help they need.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073658>

**Korea Inc. at the ready as coronavirus threatens**

Feb 11, 2020

Companies are responding across the board to the coronavirus, as they work to protect their employees and their businesses.

The measures run the gamut.

Face masks are a must and have become standard dress code accessories, while employees are checking each other's temperature like nurses in a field hospital. Mandatory temperature checks have been instituted at the offices of CJ Cheiljedang, located in Jung-district, central Seoul. Everyone working in the company headquarters wait in long lines up twice every day - 10 a.m. in the morning and 4 p.m. in the afternoon - with the youngest employee in each department at the head of the line. He or she holds up a thermometer, checks the temperature of each worker and records it on an excel sheet.

According to the company, anyone who has an abnormally high temperature is sent home, regardless of their position in the company. The confectionery maker said it bought 70 contactless thermometers.

Huawei, the Chinese IT company, disinfects its Korean office every morning. Employees returning from businesses trip to China are obliged to work from home for two weeks.

It is possible that the outbreak could permanently alter Korean business culture, often criticized for its heavy drinking and long office hours.

Local groups, including Samsung Electronics and Hyundai Group, have canceled and even forbidden holding social gatherings.

Team dinners, commonly called hwaesik, usually scheduled for late February have been canceled, though some corporate employees say that they are happy that these traditions may come to an end.

They say that the focus may be shifting to a better work-life balance. The coronavirus may be able to do what government policy has been unable to achieve.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200211000632&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200211000632&ACE_SEARCH=1)

S. Korea expands strict quarantine screenings to Hong Kong, Macao

By Yonhap

Published : Feb 11, 2020 - 14:21      Updated : Feb 11, 2020 - 14:21

South Korea said Tuesday it will apply strict quarantine screening to entrants from Hong Kong and Macao, in addition to those who arrive from mainland China.

Currently, entrants from China are asked to fill out health questionnaires to check whether they have fever or respiratory problems.

Foreigners are required to write a special quarantine report, providing their mobile phone numbers and domestic stay addresses and disclosing any visit to Hubei Province -- the epicenter of the global outbreak -- in the past two weeks.

The measure, set to take effect Wednesday, comes after reports that the country's 26th and 27th confirmed cases stayed in China's Guangdong Province for three months before returning here on Jan. 31 via Macao.

Neither were screened upon arrival, as their flight stopped over at Macao, according to the country's health authorities.

Passengers from China are required to pass through "China-only" arrival counters at airports for suspected symptoms of the new coronavirus.

Since Feb. 4, South Korea also has implemented entry ban on all foreign travelers who, over the past 14 days, have stayed in or traveled to the central Chinese province, home to Wuhan, where the novel coronavirus is believed to have originated late last year.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073630>

## **Release of sick peoples' routes useless, say docs**

Feb 11, 2020

Doctors from the Korean Society for Preventive Medicine and the Korean Society of Epidemiology said Monday in a joint statement that the government's disclosure of places visited by people later diagnosed with the new coronavirus had "zero effect" on public health, saying it only aroused unnecessary anxiety.

The two groups said members of the public shouldn't worry about contracting the disease by visiting the establishments or passing by areas where infected patients went - as long as those areas have been disinfected.

"In terms of public health, there's zero effect in shutting down schools and stores near places infected patients visited," the statement continued. "Such acts only cause unnecessary social costs."

The warning came as Korean government officials have been disclosing detailed information about the infected patients' travel routes in Korea, revealing the names and locations of shopping centers, supermarkets, convenience stores, restaurants, clinics and drug stores, often leading those establishments to close for a couple of days. On social media, Koreans have shared those travel routes with loved ones, urging them not to go nearby.

Korea has 27 coronavirus patients, with the last confirmed Sunday. No additional cases were reported Monday.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200213000692&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200213000692&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **S. Korea steps up efforts to stabilize supply of face masks**

By Yonhap

Published : Feb 13, 2020 - 14:56      Updated : Feb 13, 2020 - 14:56

SEJONG -- South Korea said Thursday it will step up efforts to stabilize supplies of face masks, as demand has soared over the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Vice Finance Minister Kim Yong-beom told a meeting with relevant officials that the government will also take stern measures against those who hoard face masks or illegally ship them overseas.

Currently, South Korean firms have enough materials to make about 10 million masks per day, Kim said.

Earlier this month, the government approved tougher penalties on the hoarding of protective masks and hand sanitizer after the spread of the COVID-19 virus, which originated in China.

Under the new rules, a person who hoards such products will face a prison sentence of up to two years or a maximum fine of 50 million won (\$42,000).

The government also decided to push forward measures to compel manufacturers and wholesalers of protective face masks and hand sanitizer to report to the authorities before shipping or selling their products.

Under the planned measures, all manufacturers are required to make daily reports on the amount delivered in the domestic market as well as the amount to be exported.

To help solve the shortage of masks and hand sanitizer, the Ministry of SMEs and Startups said it will release 1 million face masks and 140,000 bottles of hand sanitizer through its home shopping channel on Feb. 17.

Meanwhile, customs authorities said Thursday they had discovered unauthorized shipments of 730,000 face masks between Feb. 6 and Wednesday.

Most cases of unauthorized shipments involved Chinese people who sought to sell the masks in mainland China, according to authorities.

For instance, a Chinese citizen was found trying to ship 2,285 masks to Shanghai without approval, authorities said.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3073846>

### **No new coronavirus cases reported for 3rd day**

Feb 15, 2020

South Korea on Friday reported no new novel coronavirus case for the third consecutive day, with the number of cases remaining unchanged at 28, according to health authorities.

## **South Korean Leader Said Coronavirus Would ‘Disappear.’ It Was a Costly Error.**

Opposition politicians are vowing to make what they call Moon Jae-in’s incompetence the top election issue for April 15 parliamentary polls.

There were 28 cases of the coronavirus in South Korea on Feb. 13. Four days had passed without a new confirmed infection. President Moon Jae-in predicted that the outbreak would “disappear before long,” while the prime minister assured people that it was OK not to wear surgical masks outdoors.

As it turns out, the virus had been rapidly spreading at the time through a large, secretive church in Daegu, where it has since mushroomed into the largest epidemic of the coronavirus outside China, with 2,022 cases, including 13 deaths.

Now the president is facing a political backlash over his response as the number of cases continues to climb — 505 new infections on Thursday alone.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200216000234&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200216000234&ACE_SEARCH=1)

Virus patient may face fine for breaking quarantine

Hospitalized or quarantined persons can apply for state grants from Monday

By Kim Arin

Published : Feb 16, 2020 - 18:15

A patient with the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, may face penalties for not following quarantine rules, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Sunday.

According to the KCDC, a 43-year-old Korean man had lunch with his family at his home in Suwon, Gyeonggi Province, on Feb. 1 while still under quarantine.

He told authorities he started having symptoms that morning, which prompted him to visit a state health clinic later the same day. He was confirmed to have contracted the virus the next day, on Feb. 2. His sister-in-law, who was among family members who dined with him, was diagnosed on Feb. 5.

This is the first known transmission of the disease due to negligence on the part of a person put in quarantine.

The KCDC said it was speaking with district officials about fining the man 3 million won (\$2,535) for failing to observe the mandatory quarantine order. If found to have violated the laws on disease control, the patient may also be refused government compensation for individuals affected by the virus.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200218000752&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200218000752&ACE_SEARCH=1)

S. Korea entering 'new phase' in virus fight

Patients with unclear transmission route rise to 3

By Korea Herald

Published : Feb 18, 2020 - 16:07      Updated : Feb 18, 2020 - 16:08

South Korea's fight against the new coronavirus may be entering a new phase of local transmission, the head of the state disease control center said Tuesday, as the country identified a third case with an unclear infection route.

"The situation here and abroad suggests we're entering a new phase," Jung Eun-kyeong, head of the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in a press briefing.

"We have three cases yesterday and today with no overseas travel history. ... As we expand screening and conduct more tests, there is a chance that we will see more of such cases," the director said.

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[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200217000274&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200217000274&ACE_SEARCH=1)

## **Chronology of COVID-19 virus outbreaks and related events**

[By Yonhap](#)

Published : Feb 17, 2020 - 10:35



The following is a chronology of COVID-19 virus outbreaks and related major events in South Korea since the first confirmed case on Jan. 20.

## **2020**

### **◇ January**

**Jan. 20** -- South Korea reports its first confirmed case of COVID-19 virus. The patient was a 36-year old Chinese woman who arrived on Jan. 19 from Wuhan, the epicenter of the virus outbreak.

South Korea raised the country's infectious disease alert level by one notch from "blue" to "yellow."

**Jan 24** -- South Korea reports its second confirmed case of COVID-19 virus. The second case involves a 56-year-old South Korean man who arrived from Wuhan.

**Jan. 26** -- South Korea reports its third confirmed case of COVID-19 virus. (54-year-old South Korean man)

**Jan. 27** -- South Korea reports its fourth confirmed case (56-year-old South Korean man). South Korea raised its infectious disease alert level one notch to "orange," the third highest, amid rising concern over the spread of the Chinese coronavirus in the country. South Korea launched a state body to handle with the virus outbreak.

**Jan. 28** -- South Korea starts investigating all entrants from Wuhan.

**Jan. 30** -- South Korea reports its three more confirmed cases of COVID-19 virus -- 5th patient (33-year-old South Korean man), 6th patient (56-year-old South Korean man), 7th patient (29-year-old South Korean man)

**Jan. 31** -- South Korea reports its four more confirmed cases of COVID-19 virus -- 8th patient (63-year-old South Korean woman), 9th patient (28-year-old South Korean woman), 10th patient (54-year-old South Korean woman), and 11th patient (25-year-old South Korean man).

The first group of South Koreans airlifted from Wuhan are put into state-run facilities for quarantine.

### **◇ February**

**Feb. 1** -- The second group of South Koreans airlifted from Wuhan are put into state-run facilities for quarantine.

The country reports its 12th confirmed case of COVID-19 virus (49-year-old Chinese man who had been in contact with a Japanese virus patient)

**Feb. 2** -- South Korea reports its three more confirmed cases of COVID-19 virus -- 13th patient (28-year-old South Korean man), 14th patient (40-year-old Chinese woman), and 15th patient (43-year-old South Korean man).

**Feb. 4** -- South Korea restricts arrivals from Hubei province, strengthens quarantine for arrivals from China, and suspends visa-free programs on Jeju Island for Chinese visitors.

South Korea reports its 16th confirmed case of COVID-19 virus (43-year-old South Korean woman who traveled to Thailand)

**Feb. 5** -- South Korea reports its five more confirmed cases of COVID-19 virus -- 17th patient (38-year-old South Korean man), 18th patient (21-year-old South Korean woman), 19th patient (37-year-old South Korean man), 20th patient (42-year-old South Korean woman), 21th patient (60-year-old South Korean woman).

South Korea releases the first fully recovered virus patient.

**Feb. 6** -- South Korea reports its three more confirmed cases of COVID-19 virus -- 22th patient (47-year-old South Korean man), 23th patient (58-year-old Chinese woman), 24th patient (28-year-old South Korean man).

South Korea releases the second fully recovered virus patient.

**Feb. 7** -- South Korea expands the scope of virus checks

**Feb. 9** -- South Korea reports its three more confirmed cases of COVID-19 virus -- 25th patient (74-year-old South Korean woman), 26th patient (52-year-old South Korean man), 27th patient (38-year-old Chinese woman).

South Korea releases the third fully recovered virus patient.

**Feb. 10** -- South Korea reports its 28th confirmed case of COVID-19 virus (31-year-old Chinese woman), and releases the fourth fully recovered virus patient.

The incubation period for arrivals from Wuhan ends.

**Feb. 12** -- South Korea officially names the virus as "corona 19," following the WHO's decision. to codename it as "COVID-19."

South Korea beefs up quarantine for arrivals from Hong Kong and Macao.

Third group of South Koreans airlifted from Wuhan are put into state facilities for quarantine.

South Korea releases three more virus patients -- fifth, sixth and seventh fully recovered patients.

**Feb. 15** -- South Korea releases two more virus patients -- eighth and ninth fully recovered patients.

A total of 366 Wuhan evacuees are released from a two-week quarantine.

**Feb. 16** -- A total of 344 Wuhan evacuees are released from a two-week quarantine.

South Korea reports its 29th confirmed case of COVID-19 virus (82-year-old South Korean man)

**Feb. 17** -- South Korea reports its 30th confirmed case of COVID-19 virus (68-year-old South Korean woman)