

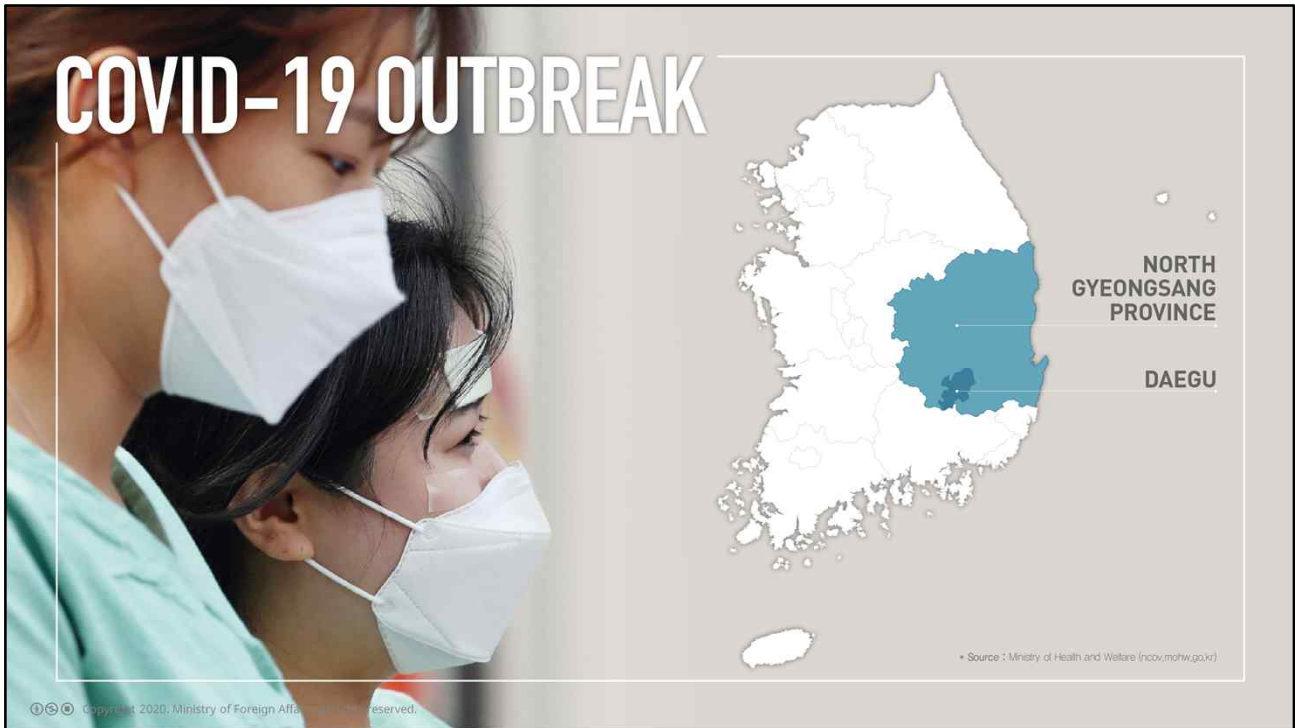
# REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19



Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs

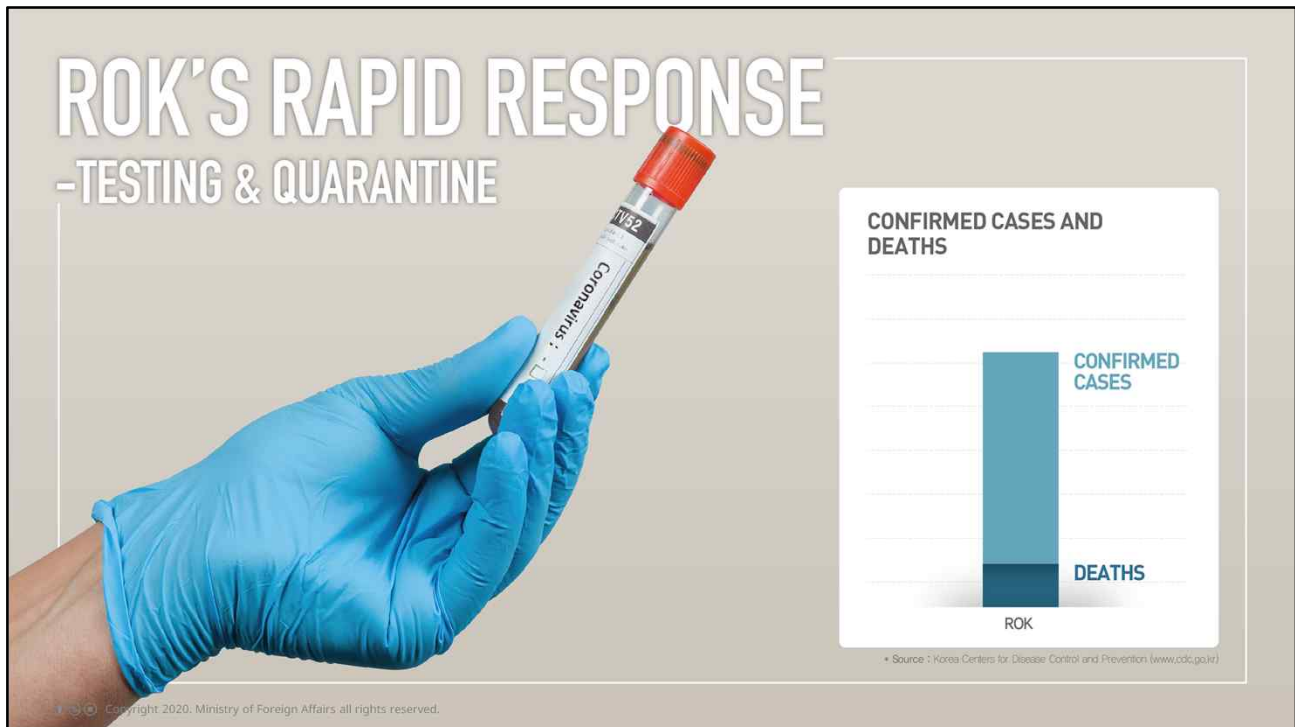
Copyright 2020. Ministry of Foreign Affairs all rights reserved.





The current COVID-19 situation in Korea is characterized by confirmed cases originating from a specific regional cluster, especially Daegu and North Gyeongsang Province. As of March 9th, there were 7,382 confirmed cases, with 6,678 cases in Daegu/North Gyeongsang Province and 704 in the rest of the country\*. The number of confirmed cases outside of Daegu/North Gyeongsang Province remains relatively low, at about 10% of the total cases.

\*Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare ([ncov.mohw.go.kr](https://ncov.mohw.go.kr))



The recent increase in the number of confirmed cases demonstrates the ROK Government's rapid response to the outbreak, from swift deployment of testing and quarantining capabilities to reporting of accurate and transparent data.

The ROK Government quickly tested, approved and ramped up production of domestically developed diagnostic kits, and is currently able to test up to 18,000 per day. The cumulative number of diagnostic tests completed as of 9 March was 196,618\*. This means that 1 out of around 260 people in Korea have been tested, an overwhelmingly high ratio compared to other affected countries. ROK is leading the world in detection of cases and prevention of its further spread. The testing of suspected patients and treatment for anyone confirmed are free, including for foreigners who may need care. Those under self-quarantine at home are also paid living expenses to help offset lost wages. The ROK has also focused on expeditious recovery of those infected with COVID-19 through its advanced medical care. Most COVID-19 related deaths in Korea have been among the elderly or those with existing medical conditions. The mortality rate of COVID-19 in Korea as of 9 March is approximately 0.69%\*, which is very low compared to the rest of the world, thanks to the exceptional national health care system that is robust and accessible.

Complete transparency of data coupled with aggressively testing asymptomatic persons who have come in contact with confirmed patients have identified even the mildest cases, unlike other countries. This has been a double-edged sword, as it has shown an alarming number of confirmed cases in a short amount of time, rising to the highest in the world outside of China. The ROK believes timely and accurate data is crucial to combating further global spread and is committed to transparent sharing of its data on COVID-19 to the international community. Korean health officials are closely coordinating and communicating with the WHO, international health experts, and other affected countries, as well as informing the public of every development and government action with full transparency.

\*Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (ncov.mohw.go.kr)

# MANAGEMENT OF INFLOW & OUTFLOW OF COVID-19



Copyright 2020. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All rights reserved.

The ROK Government has implemented robust and effective measures in its fight against COVID-19, while minimizing restrictions placed on movement of people and goods. The ROK has not introduced any entry ban on inbound travelers, except those travelling from only a single, most severely affected area in China. Instead, the ROK implemented Special Entry Procedure aimed at enhancing health monitoring of travelers coming from certain areas and countries with higher risks, which allowed minimizing the risk of expansion of disease without an outright entry ban. The travelers returning from affected countries are required to install the Self-Diagnosis App on their smartphones and submit their health status everyday for 14 days. If they show early symptoms of infection for more than two consecutive days, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) and local authorities will take follow up measures.

At the same time, Korea prohibits individuals identified as COVID-19 contacts\* from exiting Korea during their 14 day self-quarantine regardless of whether they are symptomatic of COVID-19. The ROK is also making the Incheon International Airport into a COVID-19 free zone and have made mandatory multi-step fever checks on all outbound passengers.

*\* Persons who have been within 2 meter distance from an infected patient, starting one day before the patient showed symptoms, etc.*

# INNOVATIVE MEASURES



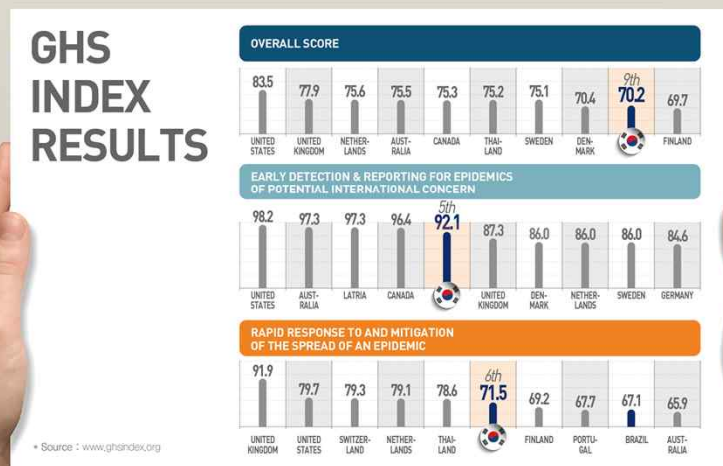
The ROK has applied several innovative measures to combat COVID-19.

To cut time needed for diagnostic screening and limit exposure of front line medical workers as well as those that are waiting to be tested, Korea pioneered Drive-through Testing Stations. There are approximately 50 Drive-through Testing Stations operational around the country, which allow drivers to register and provide samples in under 10 minutes without needing to get out of their vehicles. Many countries have used Korea's model to deploy their own drive-through testing stations.

The city and district governments partnered with mobile telecommunication companies to send emergency alerts to anyone in the vicinity of confirmed hotspots, ensuring that the public is informed as quickly as possible. Mobile apps were developed to allow users to avoid known hotspots, providing detailed information about the exact location and time of visit by confirmed COVID-19 patients.

The ROK has also developed diagnostic kits that provide fast and accurate results, which has garnered attention from many countries interested in deploying the kits.

# ROK'S EPIDEMIC OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS



Copyright 2020. Ministry of Foreign Affairs all rights reserved.

After experiencing SARS and MERS, ROK has invested and regularly maintained its capabilities to handle any future epidemics.

In the latest 2019 Global Health Security (GHS) Index\*, which is a comprehensive assessment and benchmark of health security and related capabilities across 195 countries, ROK ranked 9<sup>th</sup> overall.

\* The GHS Index is a project of the Nuclear Threat Initiative and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, developed with The Economist and under guidance of a panel of 21 international experts from 13 countries. It is funded by the Open Philanthropy Project, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Robertson Foundation.

Specifically, in 2 of the 6 categories\* that relate to detection, reporting, and response and mitigation of epidemics, ROK ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the world for “Early detection and reporting for epidemics of potential international concern”, and 6<sup>th</sup> for “Rapid response to and mitigation of the spread of an epidemic.”

\*6 categories of GHS Index (ROK rank in parenthesis)

1. Prevention of the emergence or release of pathogens (19<sup>th</sup>)
2. Early detection and reporting for epidemics of potential international concern (5<sup>th</sup>)
3. Rapid response to and mitigation of the spread of an epidemic (6<sup>th</sup>)
4. Sufficient & robust health system to treat the sick & protect health workers (13<sup>th</sup>)
5. Commitments to improving national capacity, financing and adherence to norms (23<sup>rd</sup>)
6. Overall risk environment and country vulnerability to biological threats (27<sup>th</sup>)



# ALL EYES ON HOW KOREA IS CONTAINING COVID-19



Many experts and media covered Korea's response to COVID-19 spread, particularly its innovative and thorough testing.

- CNN (3 March): "South Korea pioneers coronavirus drive-through testing stations"
- Laura Bicker BBC Seoul Correspondent's Twitter (28 Feb): whole process takes 10 mins. No need to get out of car"
- Nikkei of Japan (29 Feb): "Korea's Drive-thru coronavirus tests minimum 10 minutes introduction to expand"
- ABC News of U.S. (Feb.24): "Daegu is the epicenter of the country's growing novel coronavirus outbreak. It is also, perhaps, a model for how other cities and towns in the free world might try to deal with the virus"
- South China Morning Post (5 March): "South Korea's aggressive testing gives clues to true fatality rate"

# WORKING TOGETHER TO COMBAT GLOBAL SPREAD OF COVID-19



Copyright 2020. Ministry of Foreign Affairs all rights reserved.

In dealing with the COVID-19 spread, the extensive and integrated infrastructure of Korea's public health and medical facilities, as well as dedicated medical workers and citizens who voluntarily comply with the precautions measures such as maintaining "social distancing," have been vital.

As the Director-General of the World Health Organization(WHO), Dr. Tedros, has said, "COVID-19 is a shared threat. We can only face it together and we can only overcome it together."

Our experience will produce many lessons learned, which we hope will contribute to the international community's understanding of COVID-19, and assist in your own fight against the global spread of COVID-19.