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Regular Briefing of Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters on COVID-19

- ▲Implementation status of social distancing, and
▲current status regarding supply and demand of masks, etc. -

- The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters held a meeting today presided over by Head Chung Sekyun (Prime Minister) along with the central government and 17 cities and provinces to discuss ▲implementation status of social distancing, and ▲current status regarding supply and demand of masks at the Central Disaster and Safety Management Center in Government Complex Seoul.
- Head Chung urged, at the meeting, the relevant ministries and local governments to put best efforts to make sure the inconvenience of the public is over within a short period of time, and schools start their new semester on April 6 as planned through stricter “social distancing” for 15 days.

- He also said it is crucial to **timely provide financial support for small business owners**, requesting **the relevant ministries to make utmost efforts to resolve challenges** emerging in the field and **local governments to help more people in need can benefit** from such assistance.

1	Implementation status of social distancing
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- The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters was reported and **reviewed the implementation status of social distancing** by **Seoul, Incheon, Gyeonggi-do (Province), and Gangwon-do (Province)**.
- The four cities and provinces **briefed mainly on awareness-raising measures for stronger social distancing**, results of inspecting **religious, indoor sports, entertainment facilities** whether to comply with **infection prevention guidelines**, and **follow-up measures**.
- The Headquarters also **cracked down on churches** if they abide by the **infection prevention guidelines**.
- It was confirmed that **out of 45,420 churches across the nation, 26,104 churches (57.5%) put public worship on hold or replaced it with the online one** and **the other churches holding services mostly complied with the prevention guideline**.
- Meanwhile, **an administrative guidance was placed on 3,185 churches** whose level of compliance with the guideline was insufficient.

- For **successful implementation of tougher “social distancing” for 15 days**, Head Chung directed the local governments to thoroughly check if it is well implemented in the field.
- He also asked **each local government to work hard** to encourage every region to have **the same sense of crisis**, in spite of some regional **differences in outbreak**, and to keep **“social distancing”**.

2

Implementation status of strengthened quarantine on entrants from Europe

- The government **conducted the diagnostic tests for COVID-19 targeting all incoming travelers arriving from Europe from 00:00, March 22 (Sun)**. It implemented **stronger quarantine measures** in which **even those testing negative will go into self-quarantine for 14 days**, or be managed **ex post through active surveillance**.
 - According to this measure, **the Special Entry Procedure was conducted for 9,798 air passengers entering the country on March 22 from all parts of the world**. **Incoming travelers taking 6 flights departing from Europe*** were **transported to temporary living facilities**, even though they showed no symptoms, **for the diagnostic tests** along with the Special Entry Procedure.
- * (Direct flight based on the departing country) Germany, UK, the Netherlands, France, (transit flight) Qatar, UAE, etc.
- On **March 22**, the 1st day the procedure was implemented, **1,442 people** entered Korea departing from Europe***, which were subject

to the diagnostic tests. Among them, **152 symptomatic people** were isolated in isolation facilities at airport and went through the tests.

* (Based on the 6 flights departing from Europe) total number of entrants 1,324, Koreans 1,221, foreign nationals 103, **Rate of Koreans 92.2%**

** Including passengers initially on board in Europe other than 6 flights from Europe

- Also, asymptomatic **1,290 people** were transported to the temporary facilities for diagnostic tests, and **6 of them tested negative** at 19:00 yesterday and returned home.

- The total test results are being counted. **Those testing negative** will go into self-quarantine* and be under active surveillance**, and **the confirmed cases in mild conditions** will be transported to the community treatment centers while **the confirmed in serious conditions** urgently transferred to hospitals.

* Koreans and foreign nationals with place of residence in Korea for long-term stay will go into self-quarantine managed by the local governments even after testing negative.

** Foreign entrants to Korea for short-term stay, such as business purpose, will be under more enhanced active surveillance.

3

Shifting regular briefing on COVID-19 response to non-face-to-face briefing

- The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters released that as part of the **tougher social distancing for 15 days** (Mar. 22 ~ Apr. 5), a regular briefing provided by the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters and the Central Disaster Control Headquarters is to **be changed** from today **in a non-face-to-face manner**.
 - According to this change, **questions during the briefing** will be **delivered through the online chat room**, and **verbally answered** as much as it can during the report.
- Son Yongrae** (spokesperson of MOHW), **PR director of the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures**, expressed appreciation to the public and journalists for **understanding the change into an online, non-face-to-face briefing**, adding that the Headquarters continues to **deliver COVID-19 responses and their status in transparent and accurate manners**.
 - He also noted that a **regular briefing** of the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters and Central Disease Control Headquarters **is available as usual** at the **online e-briefing** (ebrief.korea.kr) and **COVID-19 website** (ncov.mohw.go.kr).

4

Current status regarding supply and demand of masks

※ A separate briefing is planned for this information. In case of any query, contact to the following information:

Affiliation	Division	Contact Information
Ministry of Economy and Finance	Economic Policy Division	044-215-2710, 2712
	Price Policy Division	044-215-2770, 2771
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy	Bio-Convergence Industry Division	044-203-4390, 4391
Public Procurement Service	Procurement Planning Division	042-724-7210, 7265
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety	Customer Risk Prevention Policy Division	043-719-1711, 1722

※ All Koreans **faced with issues** regarding exorbitant prices of or hoarding masks and hand sanitizers **are strongly advised** to actively **report** to the authorities through the **reporting center** (02-2640-5057/5080/5087), **customer call center** (1372), and **MFDS website** (www.mfds.go.kr).