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

- ▲ Measures to strengthen management of those in self-quarantine using ICT,
 - ▲ the operation status of national safe hospitals, and
 - ▲ the progress of financial support for small businesses -

The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters held a meeting today **presided over by Overall Coordinator 1 Kim Kanglip** (Vice Minister of Health and Welfare) along with the central government and 17 cities and provinces to inspect **the current status of COVID-19 outbreaks and the countermeasures**, and discuss various agendas related to COVID-19 at the **Central Disaster and Safety Management Center of the Government complex Seoul**.

Overall Coordinator 1 Kim Kanglip emphasized, at the meeting, that although the spread of COVID-19 is relatively under control, **the**

situation is still precarious as there are infections coming from unknown routes **beyond the quarantine management system.**

- In addition, he asked to **make utmost efforts to prevent infection in the local community by finding blind spots for quarantine** in our society, such as certain religious groups and undocumented foreign nationals that had not yet been identified and managing the vulnerable groups.

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Introduction of measures to strengthen management of those in self-quarantine using ICT

- The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters introduced “the measures to **strengthen management of those under self-quarantine** using ICT” yesterday (April 27) in order to **strictly manage self-quarantine violators who break quarantine rules**, such as going outside without notice.
- As of April 26, a **total of 39,740 people were placed under self-quarantine**, of which 1,922 were domestic cases and 37,818 were overseas entrants.
- **1,021 people** are currently placed under quarantine at **99 designated quarantine facilities** (3,368 rooms) prepared for self-quarantine subjects with no place of residence in 17 cities and provinces. (as of April 26)
 - “Self-Quarantine Safety Protection App”, which was developed to find **locations** and check the **health status** of self-quarantine subjects staying at home, has operated to safely manage them since March 7.

- As one way to strengthen management of self-quarantine subjects through ICT, a so-called “safe band” will be newly introduced and the motion-detecting function will be newly added to the “Self-Quarantine Safety Protection App”.
- Most self-quarantine subjects have complied with the quarantine guidelines, but the need to strengthen management was raised due to some cases of going outside without notice. Accordingly, the authorities plan to require self-quarantine violators to wear a “safe band” to manage them.

< Operation principle and function of “safe band” >

- * To be operated in connection with the “Self-Quarantine Safety Protection App” through Bluetooth connection between a safe band and a mobile phone
- * Alert automatically sent to a dedicated manager when the band goes out of range (20m) or is damaged or cut.



- In addition, the motion detection function will be added to the “Self-Quarantine Safety Protection App” where a notification will pop up through the application, and a self-quarantine subject is requested to check it if a mobile phone does not move for a certain period of time.
- A briefing session on the introduction of a “safe band” and motion-detecting function was held (April 22) for local governments, and related promotion and guides were provided to entrants from abroad through overseas missions and airlines.
- The government will distribute a total of 1,970 safe bands to each

city and province, and will register a new version of the “Self-Quarantine Safety Protection App” (v2.0), which adds a safe band and motion detection function, in the app store.

2 Operation status of national safe hospitals

- The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters has **designated and operated** “national safe hospitals” to establish a safe system of medical institutions to prepare for community infections amid COVID-19 spread.
- The “**national safe hospitals**” provide segregated treatment for **respiratory patients throughout the entire medical process from visit to a hospital to hospitalization** so that s/he can be treated **without worrying** about COVID-19.
 - Depending on conditions of the medical institutions, the hospitals can be categorized into two types: hospitals that separately operate outpatient department exclusively for respiratory patients (type A), and hospitals that separately operate screening clinics, and wards exclusively for respiratory patients (type B).
- Since operation of the national safe hospitals (February 24), **a total of 347 national safe hospitals** have been operated, including **29 advanced general hospitals**.
 - Medical institutions designated as national safe hospitals are supported by calculating the infection prevention management fees for **national safe hospitals** and the quarantine management fees for

screening clinics.

- The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters will continue to check whether **respiratory patients are treated separately** and whether **infection prevention activities are carried out** so that the national safe hospitals can operate properly.

3 Progress of financial support for small businesses

- As of 24:00 on April 23, Regional Credit Guarantee Foundations nationwide **consulted and received a total of 694,482 applications for guarantee.**
 - Of them, **guarantee certificates were issued to 444,526 applications (64.0%), and loan execution was completed for 320,384 cases (46.1%).**
- Looking at each local government, **Ulsan had the highest rate of issuance of guarantee certificates compared to the applications received at 94.2%, followed by Daejeon (88.4%), Chungbuk (76.6%), and Jeonnam (76.5%).**
- **The ratio of loan execution was highest in Ulsan with 70.8%, followed by Daejeon (65.2%), Jeju (59.5%), and Gyeonggi (55.9%).**