Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Actions taken by Republic of Korea (South Korea) to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as of February 18, 2021.

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Our Organization

The UN Compliance Research Group is a global organization which specializes in monitoring the work of the United Nations (UN). Through our professional team of academics, scholars, researchers and students we aim to serve as the world's leading independent source of information on members' compliance to UN resolutions and guidelines. Our scope of activity is broad, including assessing the compliance of member states to UN resolutions and plan of actions, adherence to judgments of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and commitments made at UN pledging conferences. We’re proud to present the international community and global governments with our native research findings on states’ annual compliance with the commitments of the UN and its affiliated agencies. Our goal as world citizens is to foster a global change towards a sustainable future; one which starts with ensuring that the words of delegates are transformed into action and that UN initiatives don’t remain ink on paper. Hence, we offer policy analysis and provide advice on fostering accountability and transparency in UN governance as well as tracing the connection between the UN policy-makers and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Yet, we aim to adopt a neutral path and do not engage in advocacy for issues or actions taken by the UN or member states. Acting as such, for the sake of transparency. The UN Compliance Research Group dedicates all its effort to inform the public and scholars about the issues and agenda of the UN and its affiliated agencies.
The International Health Regulations (2005) are legally binding on 196 States Parties, Including all WHO Member States. The IHR aims to keep the world informed about public health risks, through committing all signatories to cooperate together in combating any future “illness or medical condition, irrespective of origin or source, that presents or could present significant harm to humans.” Under IHR, countries agreed to strengthen their public health capacities and notify the WHO of any such illness in their populations. The WHO would be the centralized body for all countries facing a health threat, with the power to declare a “public health emergency of international concern,” issue recommendations, and work with countries to tackle a crisis.

Although, with the sudden and rapid spread of COVID-19 in the world, many countries varied in implementing the WHO guidelines and health recommendations. While some countries followed the WHO guidelines, others imposed travel restrictions against the WHO’s recommendations. Some refused to share their data with the organization. Others banned the export of medical equipment, even in the face of global shortages. The UN Compliance Research group will focus during the current cycle on analyzing the compliance of the WHO member states to the organization’s guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.
### School/educational institutions:
- Decision makers should consider the following if they decide to open or close schools: Current understanding about COVID-19 transmission and severity in children, Local situation and epidemiology of COVID-19 where the school(s) are located, School setting and ability to maintain COVID-19 prevention and control measures.
- Recommended to promote: Hygiene and environmental cleaning to limit exposure, Screening and management of sick students, teachers and other school staff, Communication with parents and students, Physical distancing at school, Tele-schooling and distance learning.

### Workplaces and institutions:
- Partial closure of workplaces as of early March.
- Hand hygiene: Regular and thorough handwashing, Hand hygiene stations.
- Respiratory hygiene: Promote respiratory etiquette, Develop a policy on wearing a mask or a face covering.
- Physical distancing: less people, implementing shifts.
- Reduce and manage work-related travels.
- Regular environmental cleaning and disinfection.
- Risk communication, training, and education: Provide posters, videos, and electronic message boards.
- Management of people with COVID-19 or their contacts: introduce thermal screening.
- Take more measures when it comes to jobs at medium and high risk.

### Public events:
- Restriction to host gatherings or events that exceed a large number of individuals, ex) sport games, religious functions, restaurants, etc.
- Planning phase: Liaison with all relevant stakeholders, Development of a preparedness and response plan, Assessment of capacities and resources.
- Operational phase: Modifications of the event, Risk communication, Surveillance of participants, aimed at detecting and managing individuals developing symptoms during the event.
- Post-event phase: Liaison between event organizers and health authorities.

### Public Transport:
- Reduce crowding, limit access to, or close public spaces, restaurants, sporting events, 24 sports clubs, entertainment venues, places of worship, 25 or venues with limited ventilation.
- Encourage physical distancing in public places and transportation.
- Reduce mixing between individuals and households.
- Communicate to recommend wearing masks in public.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Information Campaign:</th>
<th>Domestic/International Travel:</th>
<th>Testing Framework:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communicate risk clearly with information on how to protect oneself and others.</td>
<td>Reduction in Travel to prevent the spread of COVID-19.</td>
<td>Set up testing centers in large venues or in checkpoints.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simplify messages, encourage sharing of information.</td>
<td>International travel should not occur unless in an emergency.</td>
<td>Require travellers to self-quarantine after being tested.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage with communities in decision-making and to strengthen engagement for public health measures.</td>
<td>Recommended to adhere to safety measures while travelling.</td>
<td>Molecular (e.g. PCR) testing of respiratory tract samples is the recommended method for the identification and laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 cases.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify local networks and engage communities, businesses, religious leaders, and local influencers.</td>
<td>Establish effective contingency plans and arrangements for responding a Public Health Emergency.</td>
<td>To inform WHO policy on the use of immunodiagnostic rapid tests for COVID-19.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Contact Tracing:</th>
<th>Lockdown/Curfew:</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Set up relational databases linking lists of contacts to line lists of cases.</td>
<td>Implementation of curfew hours.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allow for tailored case investigation forms, contact listing forms, and contact follow-up forms to be set up.</td>
<td>Require citizens to stay in home unless of an emergency.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Used for self-checking and self-reporting of signs and symptoms by people through mobile phone apps or SMS technology.</td>
<td>Monitor locations to abide by the curfew hours.</td>
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This report draws on the methodology developed by the G8 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7/8 compliance since 1996 (the International Organisations Research Institute at the Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) joined this multi-year project in 2005, and Bond University participated in 2014). The use of this methodology builds cross-institutional and cross-member consistency and also allows compatibility with compliance assessments of other institutions. The methodology uses a scale from −1 to +1, where +1 indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, −1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated instruments or goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose full results can therefore not be assessed. Each member assessed receives a score of −1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. For convenience, the scores in the tables have been converted to percentages, where −1 equals 0 percent and +1 equals 100 percent.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>State does not comply with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), nor does it comply with any of the World Health Organization's guidelines and recommendations to curb the spread of the Coronavirus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>State complies with the IHR and partially complies with the WHO recommendations on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to at least two commitments of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>State fully complies with the IHR and the WHO guidelines on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to all nine areas of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No Compliance</th>
<th>Partial Compliance</th>
<th>Full Compliance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
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* South Korea complied with the International Health Regulations (IHR) and fully complied with the World Health Organization’s guidelines and recommendations on curbing the Coronavirus (COVID-19), through implementing complying policies and actions in all nine commitment features. Thus, South Korea receives a compliance score of +1.
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Republic of Korea

Lockdown/ Curfew

❖ As of 21 February 2020, the government of South Korea decided to place all military bases under lockdown. Museums, libraries, parks, art galleries and entertainment venues shut down. Non-essential movement was discouraged. Daegu and Cheongdo declared as “special care zones”, city officials recommends citizens to stay indoors while public facilities such as restaurants and kindergartens are closed.

❖ On 5 March 2020, Gyeongsan City in North Gyeongsang province was added to “special care zone”. Authorities advice against travel to these region and more resources to go to the city.

❖ On 15 March, North Gyeongsang province announced a total of four “special disaster zones” being Daegu and Gyeongsan cities, Cheongdo and Bonghwa counties. Daegu alone has 73% of the nations covid cases.

❖ On April 8 2020, Seoul closes bars and clubs in the city and entertainment venues.

❖ On 19 April 2020, social distancing measures extended until May 6. Entertainment venues will be allowed to start reopening.

❖ On 6 May 2020, entertainment venues, libraries, museums and art galleries were allowed to reopen.

❖ On 10 May 2020, Authorities close nightlife entertainment in Seoul.

❖ On May 28 2020, Social distancing measures reintroduced. Museums, parks and art galleries will be closed again and businesses encouraged to implement strict social distancing.

❖ As of 28 August 2020, South Korea implemented restrictions limiting the number of hours available to eat at a restaurant.

❖ As of 4 September 2020, South Korean authorities implemented stay at home policies and only encouraged individuals only to leave home for work and essential purposes. Stay at home orders are said to last until 20 September.

❖ As of 13 September 2020, the government of South Korea announced the easing of social distancing measures which will allow people to move freely with smaller restrictions.

❖ On 23 September 2020, Authorities extend restrictions until 27 September.

❖ On 25 September 2020, Authorities extended restrictions until 11 October.

❖ On 11 October 2020, Authorities to ease restrictions remain at level 2 threat. Nighttime establishments were allowed to reopen.

❖ On 17 November 2020, Authorities are to tighten restrictions in Seoul.

❖ On 22 November 2020, Seoul restrictions to further tighten threat level increased to 1 (highest in 3 level action plan).

❖ On 30 November 2020, Authorities tighten restrictions nationwide. Gyms, cafes, saunas and steam rooms were ordered to shut in Seoul.

❖ On 7 December 2020, new coronavirus restrictions put in place until December 28. Schools in Seoul close, gatherings of more than 50 people are banned. Restaurants to close at 2100.

❖ On 5 January 2021, officials expand COVID-19 restrictions nationwide until January 17. Restaurants to restrict service at 21:00 and only function at 1/3 capacity. Hotels only allow 50% capacity

❖ On 17 January 2021, restrictions extended until January 31. Gyms and cafes were allowed to reopen in Seoul.

❖ On 15 February 2021, entertainment venues and non-essential businesses reopened, while required to shut before 22:00 daily.
On 4 February 2020, South Korea began denying entry to foreigners travelling from Hubei Province in China. As of 11 February 2020, the government of South Korea has implemented advanced screening measures. Travelers from China must use specific counters upon arrival. A ban was issued on international cruise ships docking at the country’s ports and shores.

On 12 February 2020, Asiana Airlines suspends 80% of flights until March 28. Adjustments to Chinese routes will be made.

On 26 February 2020, Korean Air suspends flights to China until April 25.

On 2 March 2020, Domestic airlines canceled domestic and international flights.

On 20 March 2020, South Korea has implemented entry measures to European travelers. All incoming travelers from Europe must be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival.

As of 1 April 2020, South Korea implemented self-quarantine measures for all incoming travelers except transit passengers.

On 8 April 2020, Korea suspends visa-free entry, visa on arrival and visa waiver programs for any country on the ban list of South Korea.

On 16 April 2020, domestic flights resumed operation.

On 1 June 2020, International flights were allowed to resume gradually. Korean Air resumed flights to 19 international destinations.

As of 22 June 2020, South Korean authorities placed travel restrictions on entry and exit to and from South Korea for essential reasons.

As of 10 August 2020, South Korean authorities lifted the ban on travel to the Hubei Province.

On 23 September 2020, all incoming traveler must carry a negative PCR test certificate issued less than 72 hours before arrival and undergo 14 days of quarantine post arrival.

On 11 October 2020, business travel is permitted from Japan.

On 23 December 2020, suspension of all flights to and from the UK until December 31.

On 29 December 2020, suspension on flights to and from UK extended until January 7.

On 7 January 2021, Flights to UK resumed, while the suspension on incoming UK flight was extended until February 25.

On 18 February 2020, universities announced plans to postpone the start of the spring semester.

As of 23 February 2020, the Daegu Office of education decided to postpone the start of every school in the region by a week.

As of 24 February 2020, the government ordered the closure of multiple educational institutions in Seoul. Schools and universities moved to online learning as a result.

As of 18 April 2020, the government of South Korea announced the lifting of restrictions for schools.

As of 4 May 2020, South Korean authorities announced that schools will reopen on 13 May after holding online classes for several weeks.

On 20 May 2020, schools began to reopen in the city of Incheon but immediately sent students back home if they tested positive.

On 28 May 2020, schools began to cancel their reopening plans and continue with online learning after multiple cases turned out positive.

As of 25 August 2020, authorities banned most schools in South Korea. High school students allow to go to classes.

On 7 December 2020, Authorities only allow 2/3 of highschool students to attend.

On 14 December 2020, all schools to fully shut in Seoul.
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<td>❖ On 23 February 2020, Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun made an announcement to avoid public gatherings and not to hoard medical supplies.</td>
<td>❖ As of 26 May 2020, South Korea ordered for the mandatory use of masks in public transit. Seoul metro and bus services nationwide will increase their schedule during rush hours to reduce crowdedness.</td>
<td>❖ On 23 February 2020, Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun made an announcement to avoid public gatherings and not to hoard medical supplies.</td>
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<td>❖ On 5 March 2020, Health officials announced the implementation of the same public awareness mechanism used during the MERS outbreak to raise public awareness on COVID-19.</td>
<td>❖ As of 15 August 2020, the government announced it has adopted the use of smart bus shelters that check the temperature of passengers before entry. Hygiene stations were established at metro stations. Medical teams were also deployed at public transport main stations to monitor any symptoms of the virus by passengers. Awareness campaigns on the virus were carried out in Seoul metro.</td>
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<td>❖ As of 23 March 2020, the government announced that individuals who are in quarantine will receive phone alerts with information regarding their situation and the COVID-19 updates.</td>
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## Republic of Korea

### Workplace and Institutions
- **Between February 2020 and February 2021**, the South Korean government allowed for private and public workplaces to remain open while adhering to safety measures. Various entertainment related businesses were required to shut down for short periods during times of cases spike.

### Testing Framework
- **As of 2 March 2020**, the government of South Korea adopted drive-through testing where patients do not leave their vehicle.
- **As of 10 March 2020**, the KCDC implemented various testing methods to Church members.
- **As of 12 March 2020**, South Korea launched a widespread testing campaign, with 600 testing centers nationwide.
- **As of 17 March 2020**, South Korea testing capacity reached 20,000 daily test.
- **On 11 November 2020**, the Ministry of Food and Drug safety approved the use of the antigen and antibody test kits of SD BioSensor.
- **On 23 December 2020**, the government launched 50 random testing centers. Nationwide testing will be boosted to curb new surge.
- **As of 18 February 2021**, South Korea has conducted a total of 112,876 tests per 1 million people.

### Contact Tracing
- **As of 24 February 2020**, through methods of contact tracing, the government of South Korea was able to crackdown and test Church members suspected of COVID-19.
- **As of 10 March 2020**, the KCDC implemented methods on testing individuals that have been in contact with COVID-19 positive people.
- **As of 17 March 2020**, the South Korean government adopted contact tracing and quarantining individuals instead of placing the country under a lockdown.
- **As of 23 March 2020**, the government of South Korea has used contact tracing by tracing individuals phones and credit cards prior to their movement and individuals who are suspected to be in danger are then sent alerts with information on what to do.
- **As of 14 April 2020**, the government of South Korea ordered and contacted individuals who tested positive to stay indoors as method of mitigating the spread of COVID-19.
- **On 1 January 2021**, all high risk businesses were required to scan a QR code of all customers before entry to ensure easier contact tracing.

### Vaccine
- **On 4 January 2021**, Astrazeneca vaccine under review.
- **On 11 January 2021**, South Korea announced plan to begin vaccination in February.
- **On 10 February 2021**, South Korea approved the Astrazeneca/Oxford vaccine approved. The vaccine will not be provided to those aged over 65.
- **On 15 February 2020**, South Korea announced it has signed a deal to receive 6 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 40 million doses of the Novavax vaccine.
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Sources


Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to the World Health Organization Guidelines: Republic of Korea (South Korea).