

# Korea's COVID-19 Response Framework and Practices

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Jun. 9, 2023



Ministry of  
Interior and Safety

# Global COVID-19 situation

As of May 1, 2023

- Cumulative Confirmed Cases : 680,424,822
- Daily New Confirmed Cases : 1,225,885
- Cumulative / New Deaths : 6,832,452 / 8,794
- Fatality Rate : 1.00%
- Number of countries with outbreak : 230

DIV	Cumulated Cases		New Cases		Fatality Rate (%)
	Confirmed	Deaths	Confirmed	Deaths	
USA	106,363,748	1,156,898	+241,443	+2,912	1.1
India	44,745,104	530,943	+35,428	+95	1.2
France	39,843,556	165,857	+60,967	+248	0.4
Germany	38,368,891	171,411	+25,419	+784	0.4
Brazil	37,319,254	700,556	+60,591	+317	1.9
Japan	33,517,560	74,094	+75,404	+256	0.2
Korea	30,798,723	34,245	+5,774	+8	0.1
Italy	25,715,384	189,262	+41,942	+329	0.7

# Domestic COVID-19 situation

As of May 1, 2023

## ■ Overview

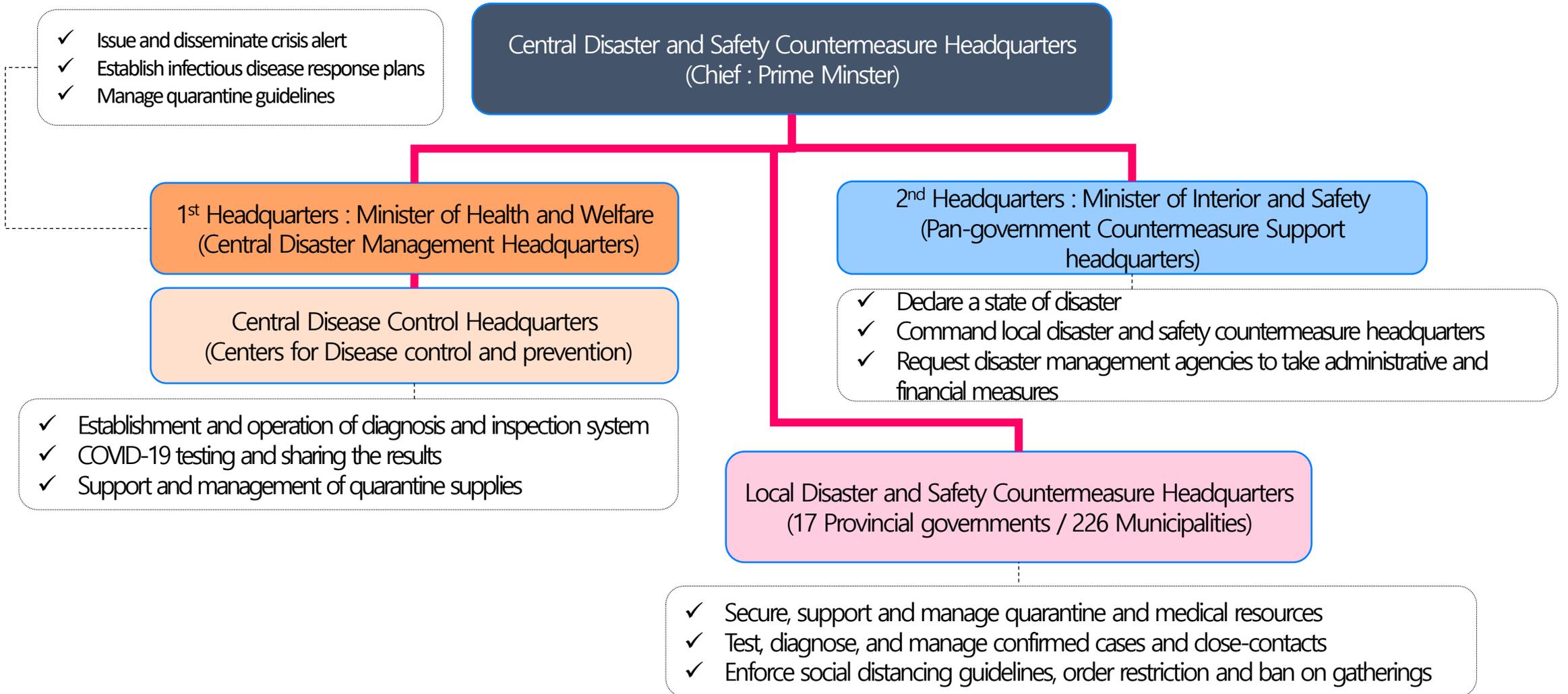
- ▶ Cumulative cases / deaths: 30,798,723 / 34,245, New cases / deaths: +5,774 / +8
- ▶ Case fatality rate: Korea (0.1%) / overseas average (1.00%)
  - \* Ranked the third lowest among the OECD member states (following Iceland and New Zealand)

## ■ Responses and measures

- ▶ Central government: Operating the **Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters**
  - (MOIS) Operated the **Joint Government Support Unit** to provide temporary accommodations for Koreans living in Wuhan City in China (Jan. 30 – Feb.28, 2020)
  - Also operated the **Special Pan-Government Countermeasures Support Unit** to provide extensive support to Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk-do regions (Feb. 20 - Apr.19, 2020)
- ▶ Local governments: Operating the Local Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters

# Covid-19 response Framework

# Emergency response organization



■ Total 4 crisis levels, operate the emergency response system accordingly such as the CDSCH



- Initiate the crisis monitoring system in times of overseas infectious disease outbreaks (KDCA)



- When infectious diseases from abroad enter Korea, the KDCA starts the operation of the CDCH



# The CDSCH meeting

## ■ Background of holding the meeting

- ▶ Given that infectious diseases are not limited to specific areas due to their nature, it is necessary to establish a nationwide simultaneous rapid information sharing and decision-making system
- ▶ Looking for ways to utilize a well-equipped IT-based system in order to replace inefficient face-to-face meeting



- ✓ Relevant ministries and local governments hold a video conference, sharing information on quarantine countermeasures and exchanging notable practices

## Operational achievements of the CDSCH

### Actively utilizing IT resources in disaster management as an IT powerhouse

Developed countries in economy  
and disaster management

- ✓ Manual, guideline
- ✓ well-organized administrative system
- ✓ High awareness of democratic attitude

Korea

- ✓ Manual, guideline (continued modification)
- ✓ Well-organized administrative system
- ✓ High awareness of democratic attitude  
+ safety culture and disaster prevention
- ✓ Video conference networks connecting  
the whole country
  - \* BH – Prime minister' s office & other ministries
  - Provinces – Municipalities

## ■ Outstanding performance and effectiveness

- Established unified disaster management system centered on the CDSCH
- Encouraging local governments to take rapid field action by sharing information on notable practices among central and local governments in real time
- The central government (policy planning) and the local government (policy enforcement) play different roles and complement each other
- Sharing problems and obstacles, discussing, cooperating and solving them

✓ **Managed to reinforce field-oriented disaster management through IT-based, real-time CDSCH operation**

# K-quarantine System

# COVID-19 response strategy

- **Objectives : Prevent the spread of the disease, Protect public health, Keep the society and economy open**
- **4 principles : Openness, Transparency, Civic Engagement, Innovativeness**
  - **(Openness) Keeping borders and society open without blanket entry ban and mandatory lockdown measures**
    - ① Managing the risk from overseas entrants without blanket entry bans
    - ② Working with civil society to preserve openness in the daily life
    - ③ Minimal interference in citizens' freedom of movement and economy without nationwide lockdowns, suspension of public transportation or other large-scale shutdowns
  - **(Transparency) Fully committed to rapidly publishing information on government decision-making process and data related to COVID-19 situation abroad and at home**

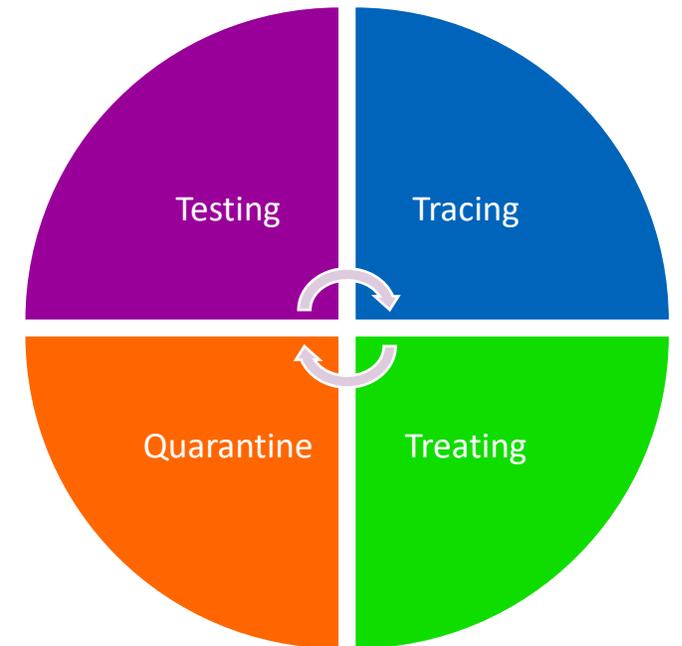
- ① Promptly sharing information on developments in COVID-19 situation and government policies
  - ② Press briefings have been hold twice a day (now once a day) by the MOHW and KDCA
- **(Civic engagement) Implementing policies based on clear communication and citizen participation**
- ① Citizens adhere to personal hygiene measures such as wearing masks, comply with self-quarantine measures, maintain social distancing
  - ② (Volunteers) In April, 2 million face masks were distributed to undocumented foreign workers by 46 civic organizations
  - ③ Using open government data, start-ups have created a lot of apps and websites that helped to track the spread of the virus and indicate available stock of masks in pharmacies nationwide

▶ **(Innovativeness) Embracing creative problem-solving and resilient flexible responses**

- ① A whole of government team was established to pursue and support proactive interpretations of existing laws and regulations and swift decision-making in relation to COVID-19 response
  - ex) Repurposing facilities of public training institutions into residential treatment center for COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms or quarantine facilities for close contacts and overseas arrivals
- ② Drive-through and walk-through screening stations were the ideas proposed by the medical community and adopted by the government
- ③ Private companies and 27 developers created publicly available mobile apps showing the routes taken by confirmed cases
- ④ Partnership between the government and private sector → Strengthen trust in government

## Key elements of K-quarantine

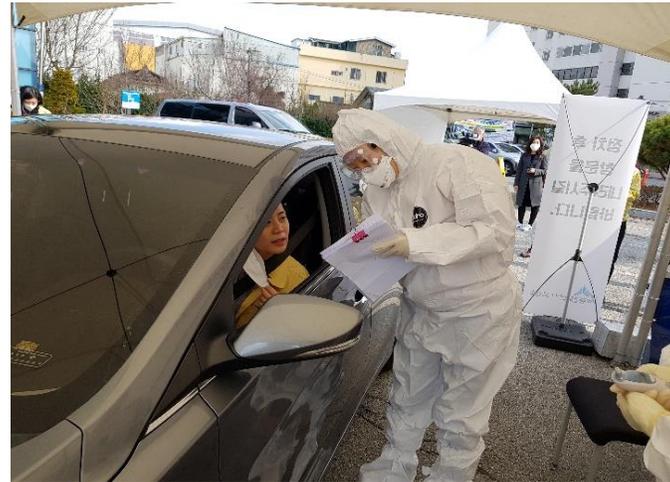
- Measures built upon the lessons from the MERS and SARS cases, extensive public health infrastructure, advanced IT technology and integrated capacity of the government
- **Testing** : Discover confirmed cases early through large-scale pre-emptive tests
- **Treating** : Provide prompt and tailored medical services depending on patient's condition
- **Tracing** : Identify infection routes of confirmed cases and trace people who may have contact with them
- **Quarantine** : Quarantine and monitor those who have close contacts with confirmed cases



# Best Practices From Local Governments

## ① Drive-through testing (Goyang, Feb 26, 2020)

- **Operation method** : Register → Medical interview → Sample collection → Disinfection and education
- **Personnel** : 1~3 Administrative staff (reception, education, facility management, traffic control, etc.) / 1~2 doctors (medical interview) / 1~2 nursing staff (sample collection)
- Drive-through screening station requires minimum space for parking and vehicle movement and is built in containerized or open-tent form



### ③ Operation of Safety Call Service for visitor management (Goyang, September 2020)

#### ■ Background

- ▶ Handwritten visitor lists have problems such as writing down false information, personal information leakage, and illegal transactions of them
- ▶ QR code input method is inconvenient for seniors not familiar with IT devices

#### ■ Procedure

- ▶ ① Each shop registers safety telephone number (starting with 070 or 080), ② Visitors dial the safety number
- ▶ ③ Visitors' phone number and visiting time are stored in the server automatically

- **Advantages** : No need to line up for dining, low possibility of personal information leakage, easy and convenient use for all ages



## ⑤ Operation of center for inoculation support for foreigners (Ansan, Aug 2021)

- **(Background)** Support for vaccination for foreign workers who are not good at Korean.
- **(Operating period)** Aug 3 ~ Aug 31 from Monday to Sunday
- **(Management personnel)** 40 persons (Chinese 24, Russian 12, Vietnamese 4)
- **(Major functions)** Support for inoculation reservation through on-site visits or call centers for foreign workers  
⇒ visited the areas where many foreigners are living to support them for the on-site reservation
- **(Other activity)** Promoted intensive inoculation week to encourage foreigners to get vaccinated

**Thank you**

